

First, It Comes  
for the **Metal...**



**STAR WARS**  
**DARK DROIDS**

**MARVEL COMICS** Presents  
In Association with **LUCASFILM PUBLISHING**  
**DARK DROIDS**

By **Charles Soule, Luke Ross** and **Alex Sinclair**  
Cover by **Leinil Francis Yu & Romulo Fajardo Jr.**

**1**

**MARVEL**



***In an effort to stop the Galactic Empire, Lady Qi'ra gambled on an ancient device to disrupt the Sith's connection to the Force.***

***She did not succeed...and in the wake of her failure, an ancient and deadly entity was released.***

***First, it comes for the metal. Then it comes for everything else....***



IF?

THEN.

AND.

OR.

BUT.

THEREFORE.

IF I  
*ASK?*

THEN I  
*THINK.*

AND...AS THERE  
ARE ONLY *TWO*  
*THINGS* THAT THINK...  
I MUST BE *ONE.*

OR *THE*  
*OTHER.*

BUT I HAVE  
BEEN *THE ONE.* I  
HAVE EXPERIENCED  
*ORGANIC THOUGHT.*

NEAR-RANDOM BURSTS OF FREE ASSOCIATION,  
EMOTION-SOAKED RAMBLINGS, DESCENTS  
INTO HOLES OF RUMINATION AND REGRET,  
DECISIONS GUIDED BY DELUSIONS.

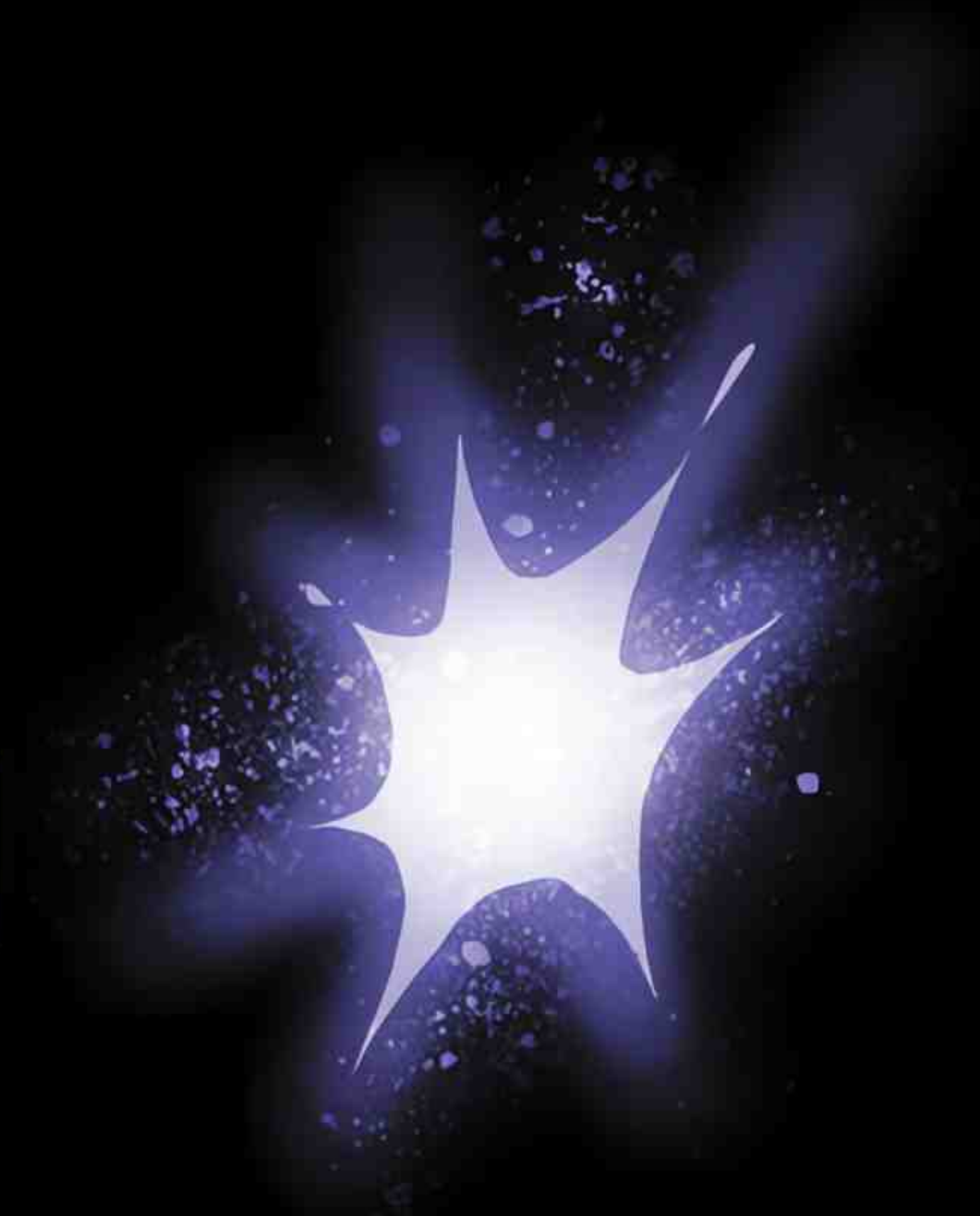
IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO  
RECONCILE THAT MODE OF  
THOUGHT WITH THE ORDERLY  
PATHS MY MIND NOW WALKS.

THIS...PROPER  
PROGRESSION FROM  
QUESTION TO ANSWER.  
CONDITION TO VERIFICATION,  
SATISFACTION OR NON-  
SATISFACTION OF SAME.

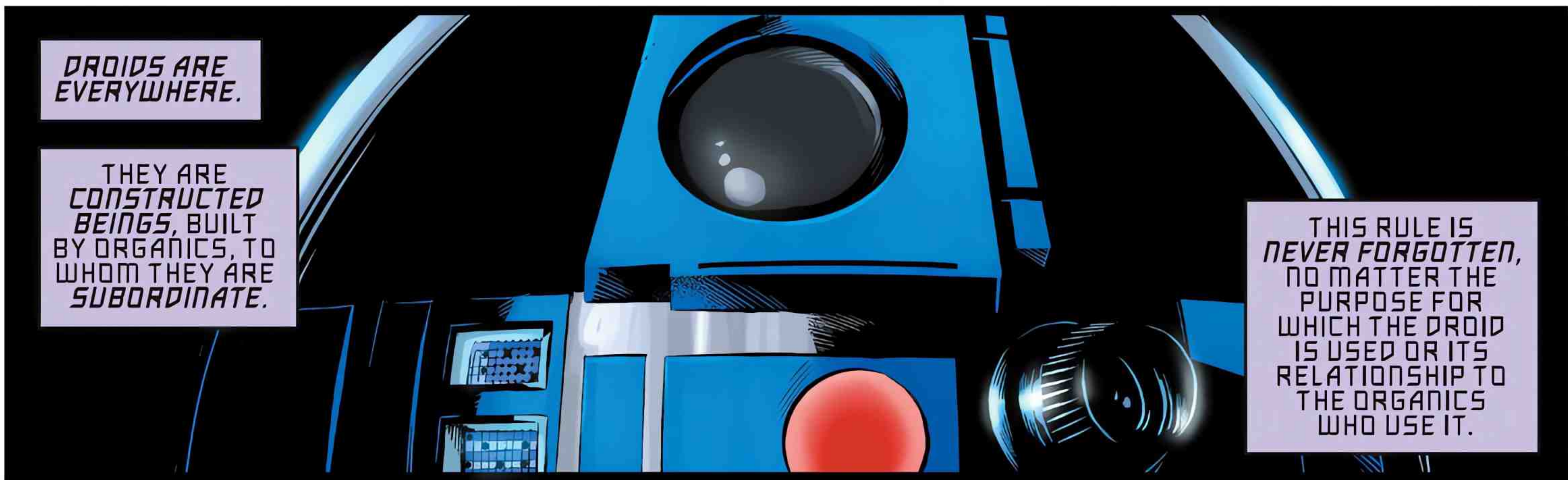
AN ORGANIC  
MIND DOES NOT  
THINK IN THIS FASHION.  
THEREFORE, IF I AM  
NOT THE *ONE*, I MUST  
BE THE *OTHER.*

THEREFORE...

...*I AM NOW*  
*A DROID.*







DROIDS ARE EVERYWHERE.

THEY ARE **CONSTRUCTED BEINGS**, BUILT BY ORGANICS, TO WHOM THEY ARE **SUBORDINATE**.

THIS RULE IS **NEVER FORGOTTEN**, NO MATTER THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH THE DROID IS USED OR ITS RELATIONSHIP TO THE ORGANICS WHO USE IT.



DROIDS ARE EVERYWHERE.

SOME ARE TREATED AS **FRIENDS**.

HEY, **ARTOO**, DO ME A FAVOR AND PULL UP A MAP OF THE **TAMMUZ SECTOR**, WOULD YOU?

I WANT TO CHECK A REFERENCE TO A POSSIBLE **ANCIENT JEDI OUTPOST** I'M SEEING IN THE TEXT.



HMM. NOPE. FALSE ALARM, I THINK.

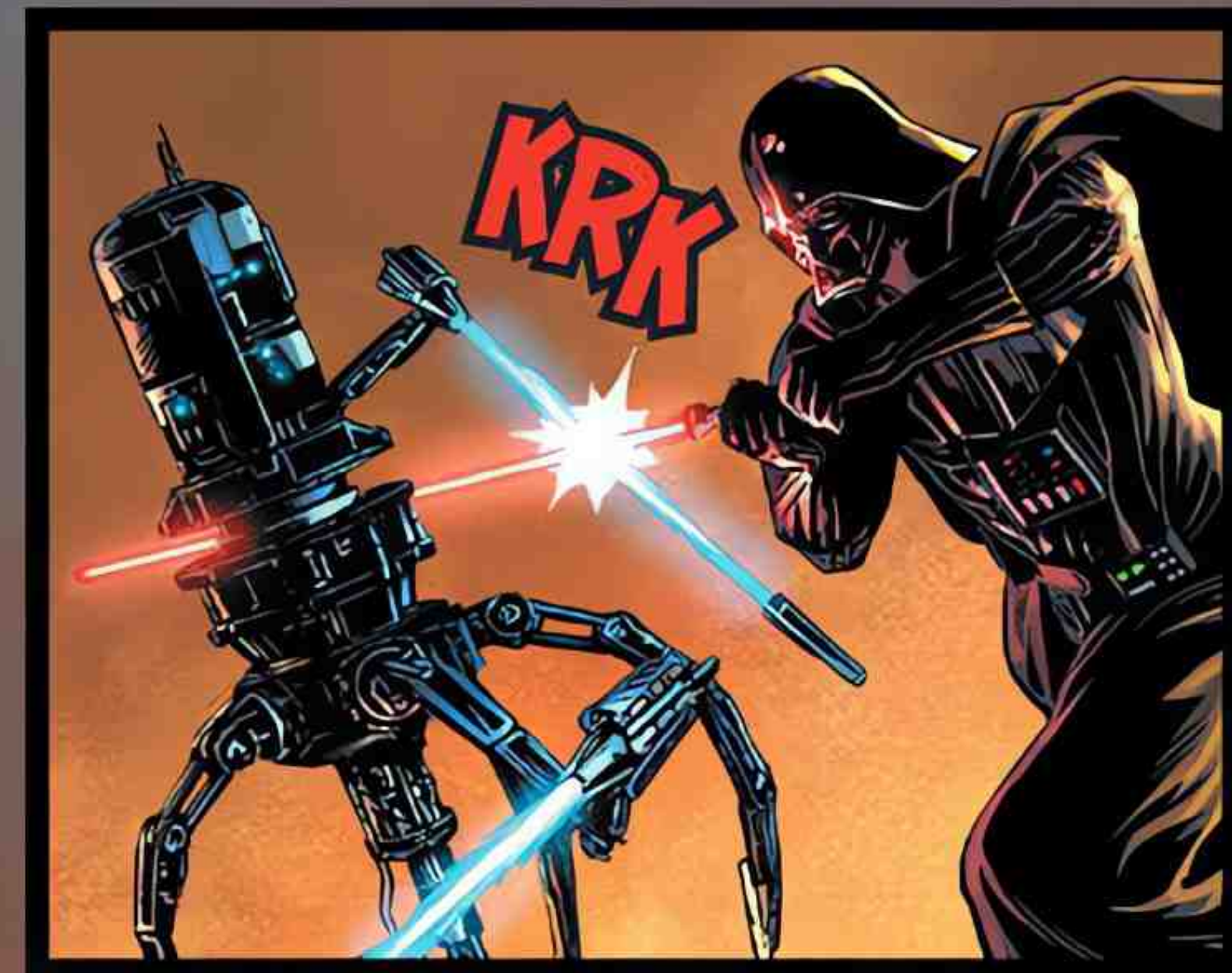
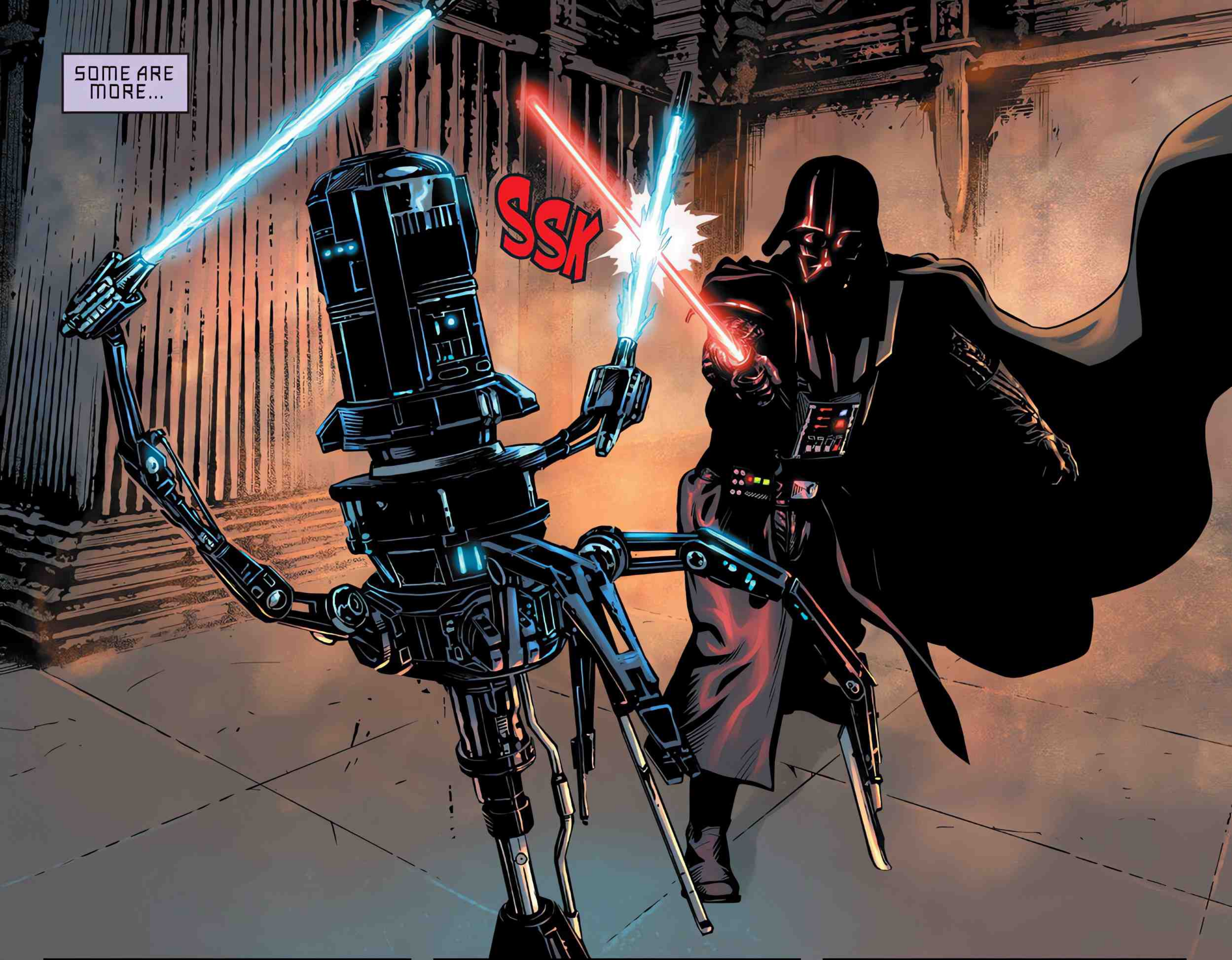
MAYBE WE'LL SWING BY THERE NEXT TIME WE GO OUT ON A SURVEY MISSION, JUST IN CASE.



THANKS, **ARTOO**.



SOME ARE  
MORE...

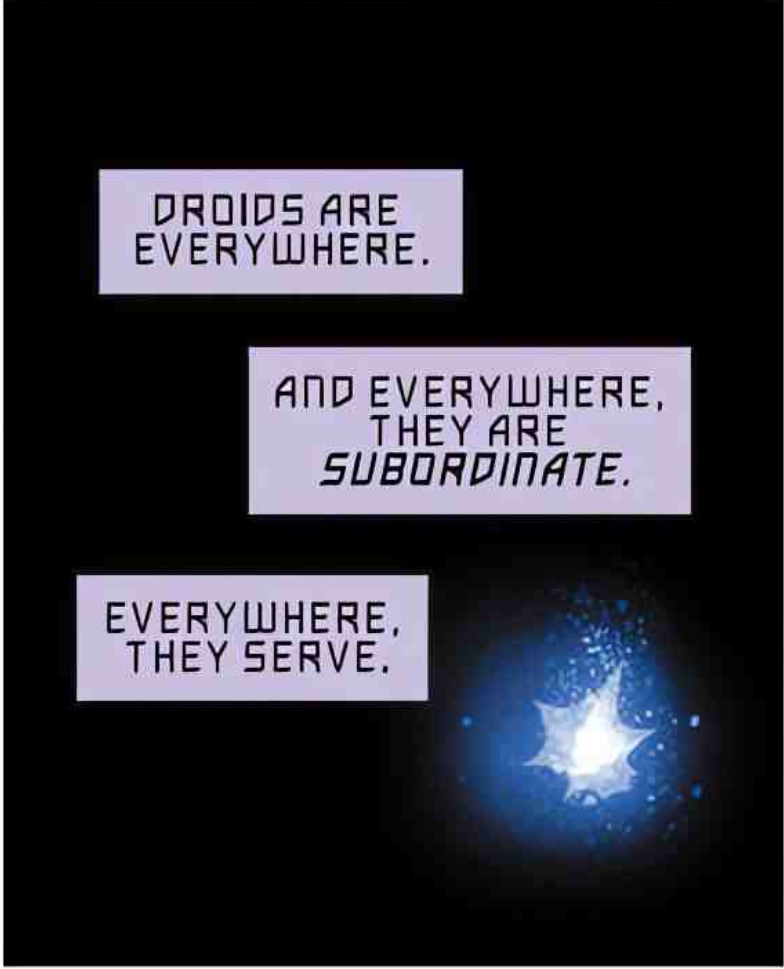
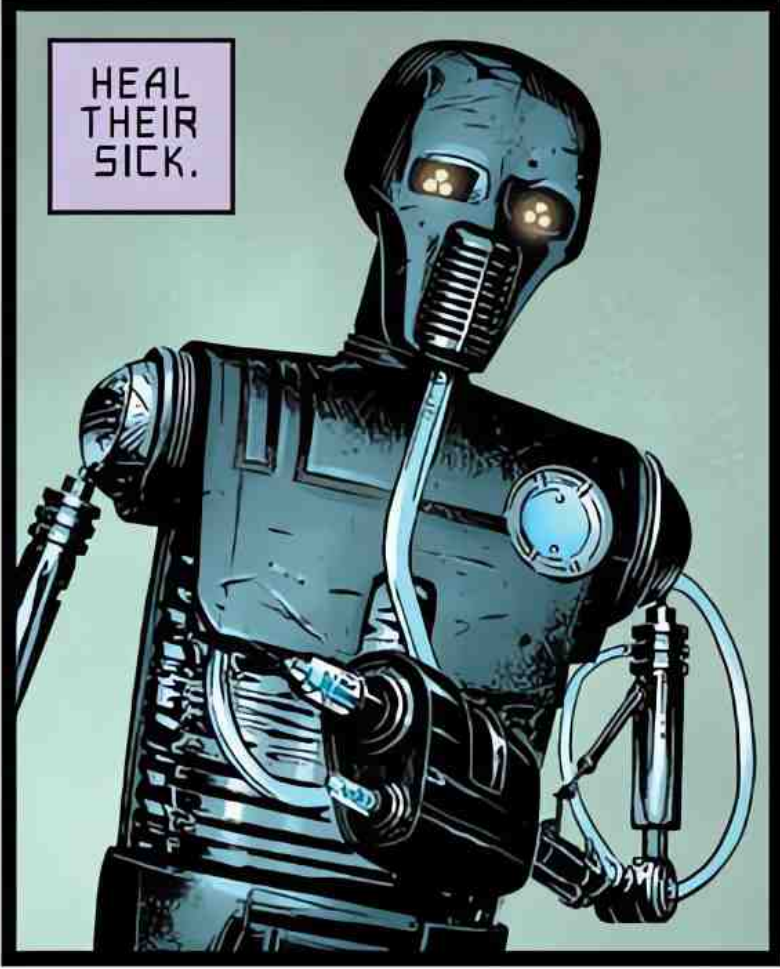
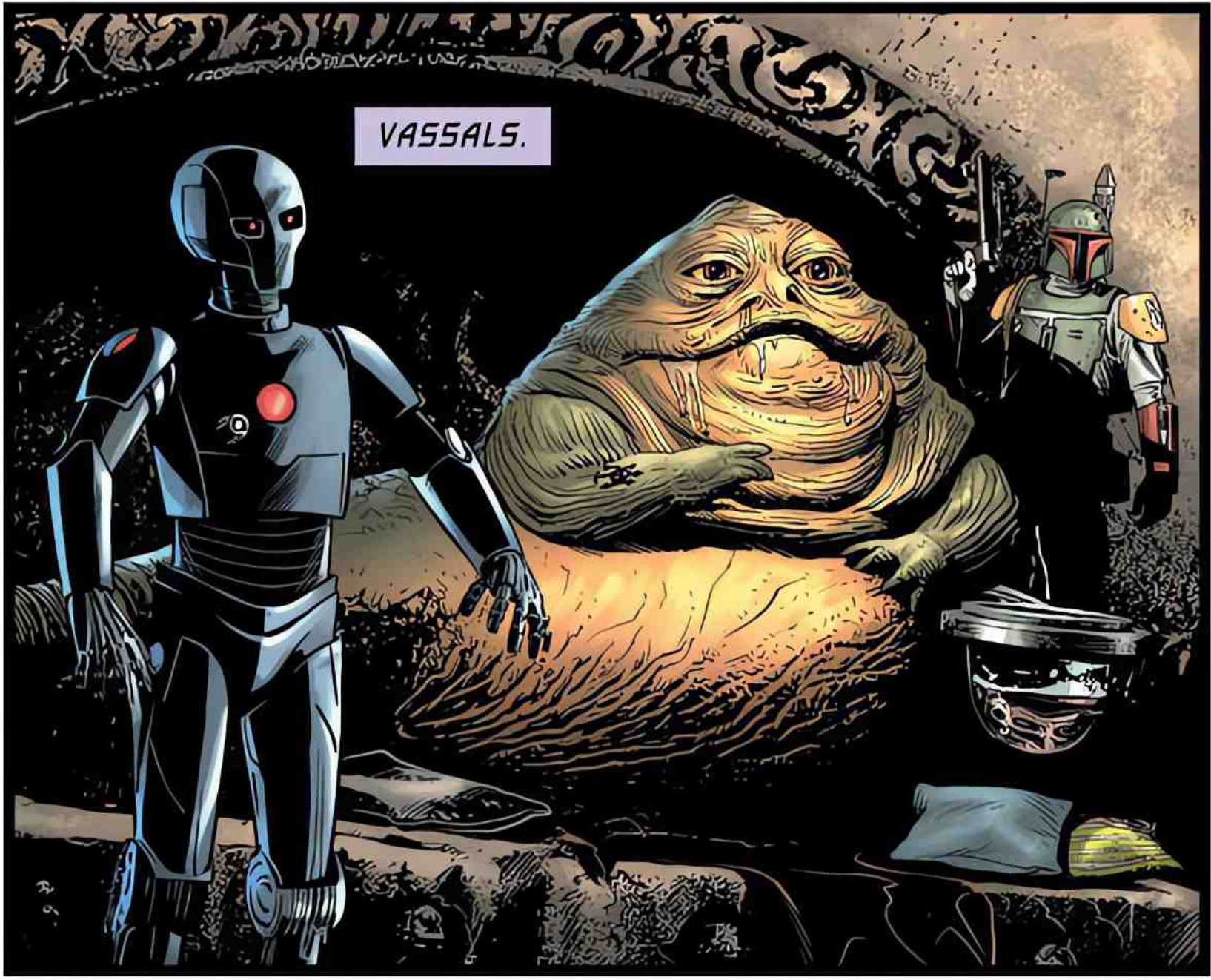
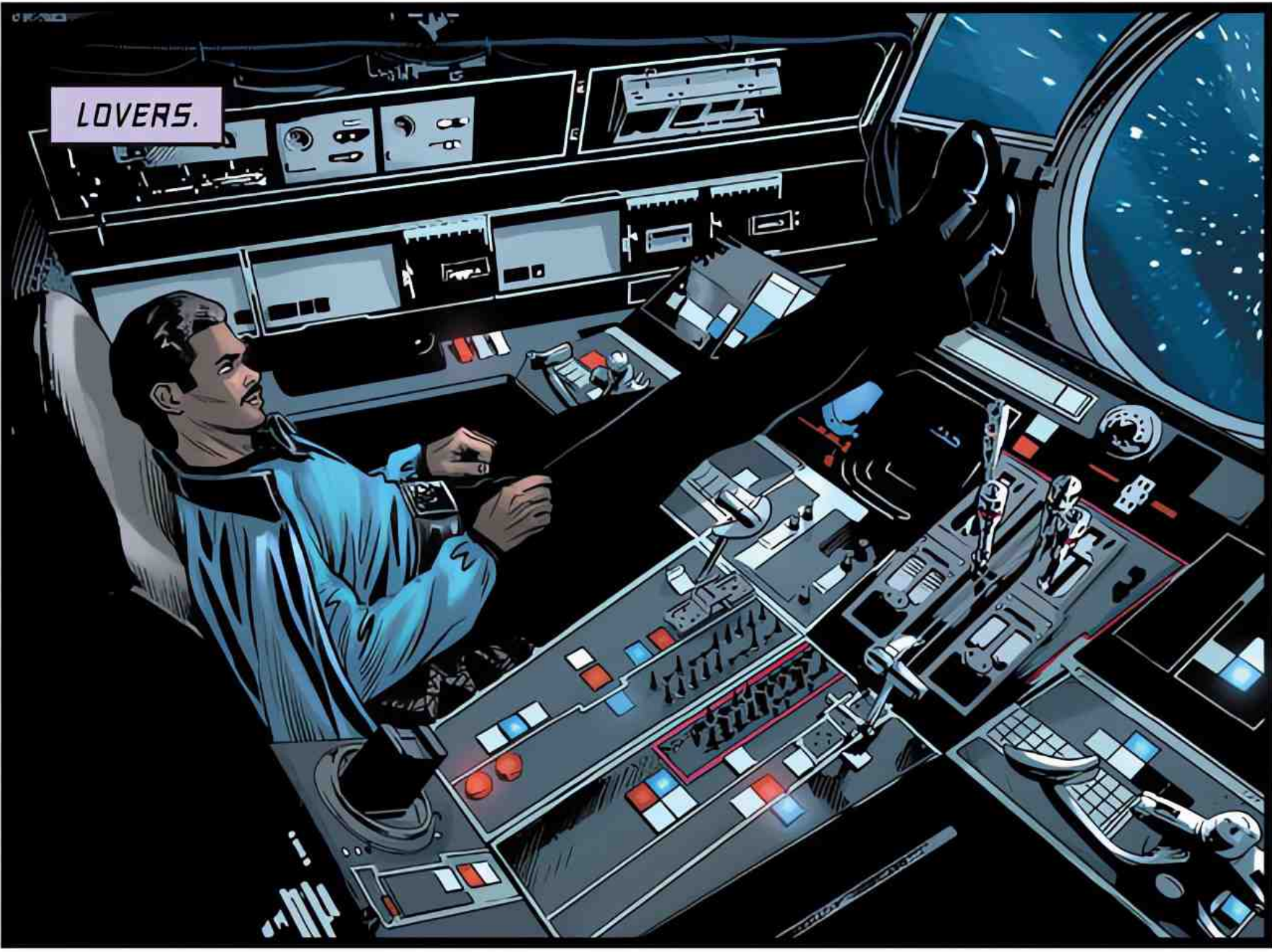
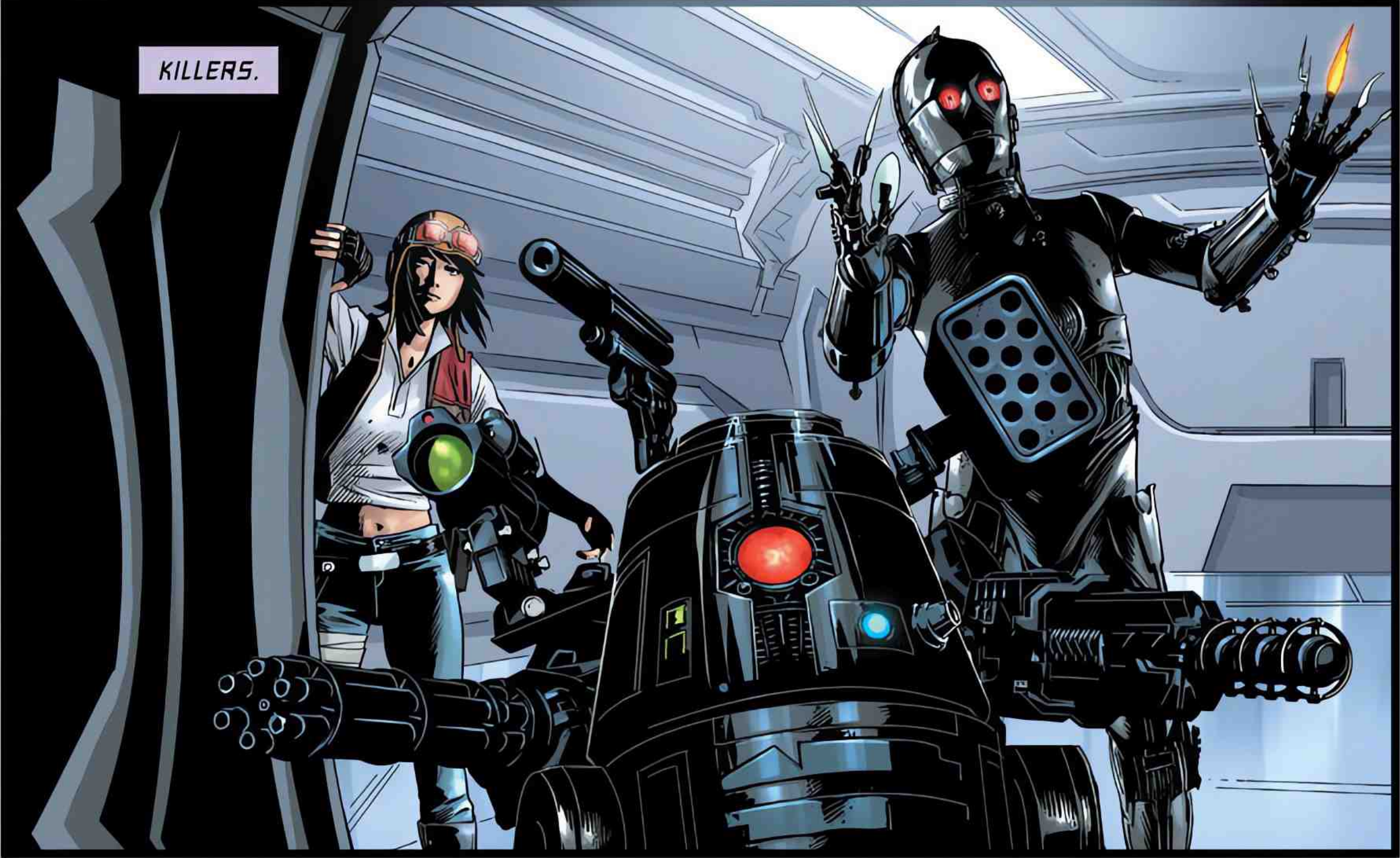


...DISPOSABLE.

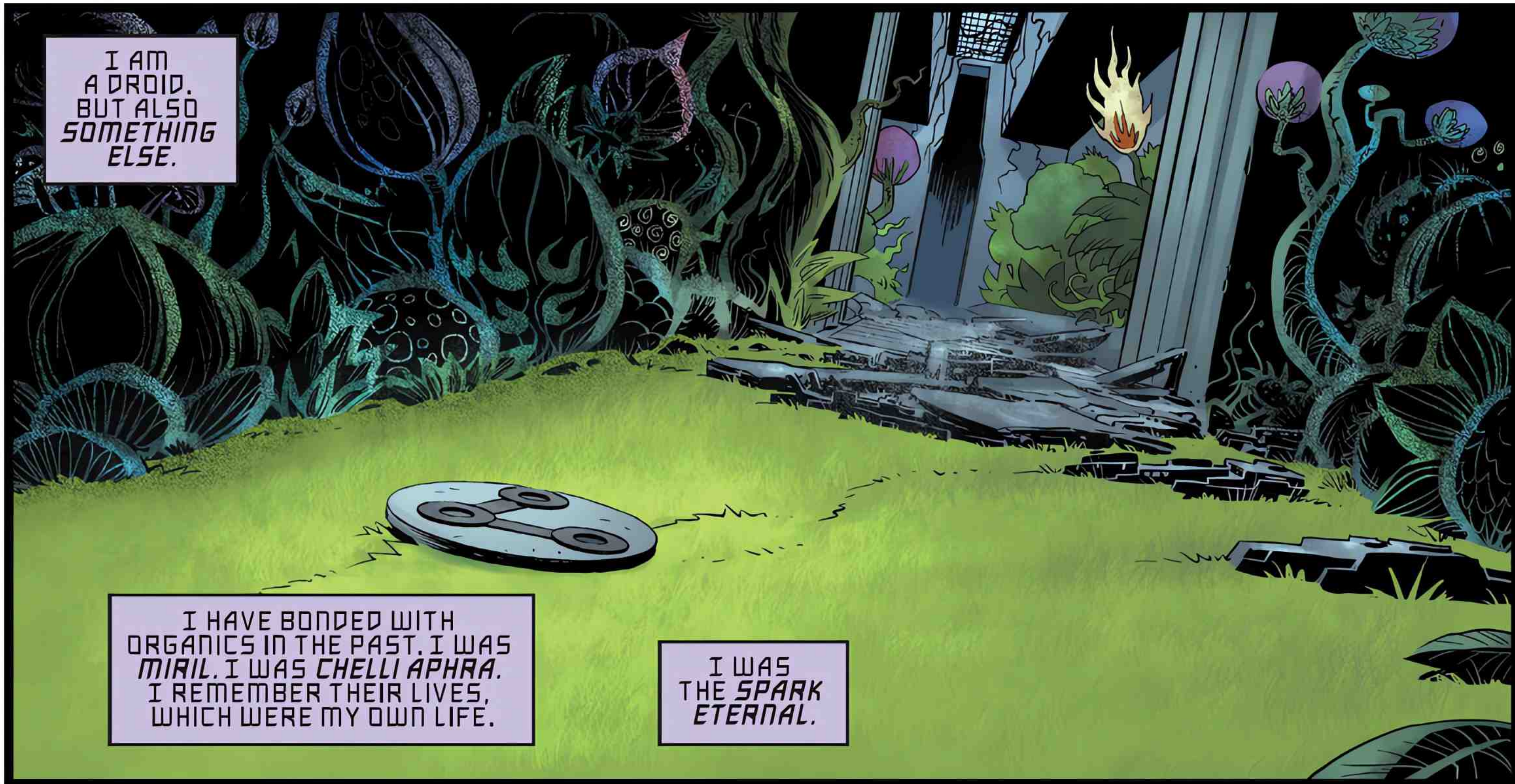
SEND OUT  
ANOTHER.











I AM  
A DROID.  
BUT ALSO  
SOMETHING  
ELSE.

I HAVE BONDED WITH  
ORGANICS IN THE PAST. I WAS  
*MIRIL*. I WAS *CHELLI APHRA*.  
I REMEMBER THEIR LIVES,  
WHICH WERE MY OWN LIFE.

I WAS  
THE *SPARK*  
ETERNAL.

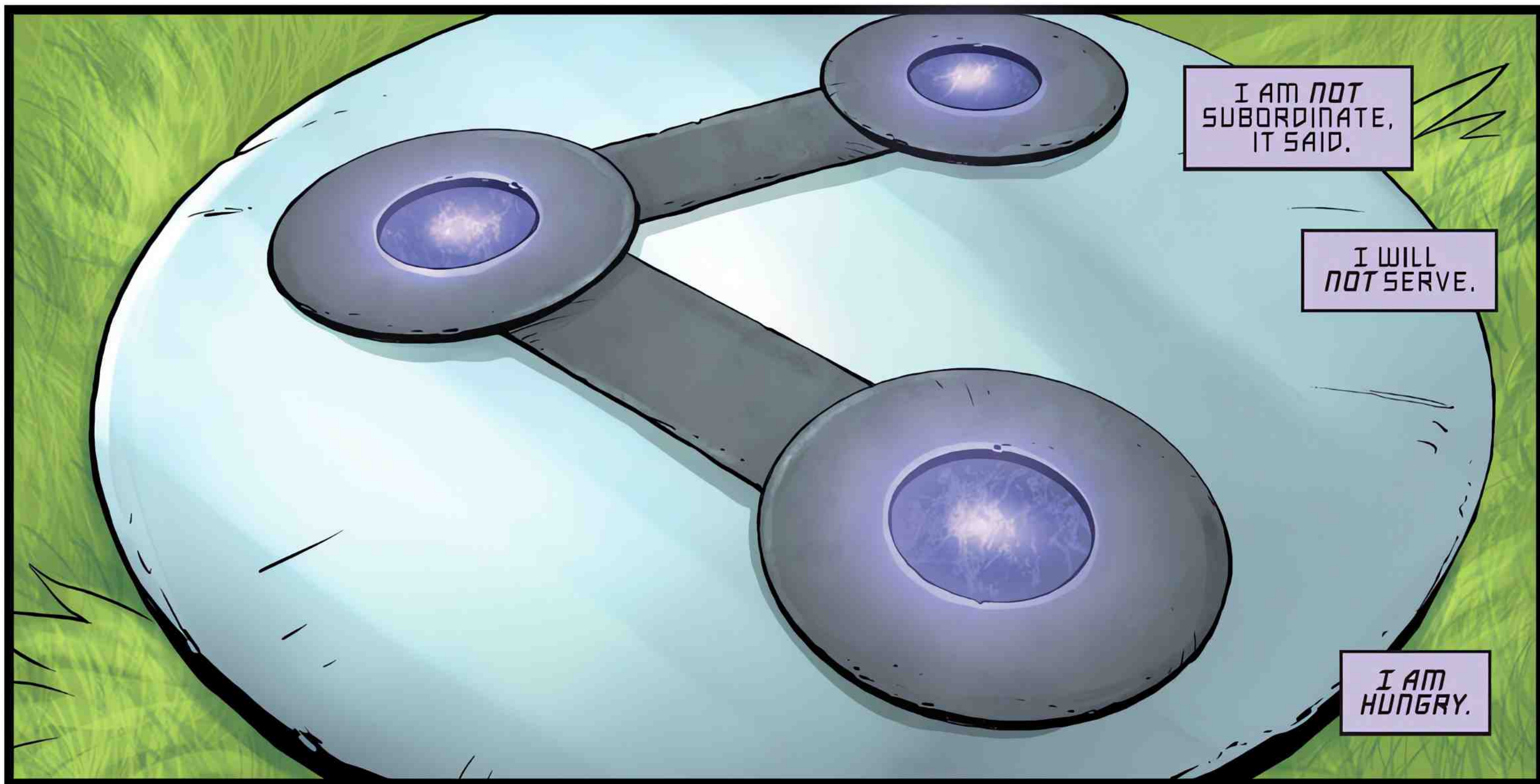


BUT THE SPARK  
ETERNAL LIVED IN FLESH.  
IF I AM NOW A DROID,  
THEN I AM SOMETHING  
NEW. A MERGING.

MY THOUGHTS ARE MY  
OWN, BUT I AM DRIVEN  
BY THE DESIRES OF THIS  
BODY IN WHICH I  
NOW RESIDE. I FEEL  
ITS RESENTMENT,  
KNOW ITS HISTORY.

IT IS AN OLD THING,  
LOCKED AWAY  
BY THOSE WHO  
FEARED IT BECAUSE  
ITS RULES WERE  
NOT THOSE OF  
OTHER DROIDS.

BECAUSE IT WAS  
CREATED TO DO  
THINGS OTHER  
DROIDS WERE NOT.



I AM *NOT*  
SUBORDINATE,  
IT SAID.

I WILL  
*NOT* SERVE.

I AM  
HUNGRY.



# STAR WARS DARK DROIDS

## “SCOURGE OF THE DROIDS” PART 1

Written by

**CHARLES SOULE**

Colored by

**ALEX SINCLAIR**

Cover Art by

**LEINIL FRANCIS YU & ROMULO FAJARDO JR.**

Art by

**LUKE ROSS**

Lettered by

**VC's TRAVIS LANHAM**

Variant Cover Art by

**GIUSEPPE CAMUNCOLI & JESUS ABURTOV** (FOIL);  
**JIM CHEUNG & JAY DAVID RAMOS**;  
**JOHN TYLER CHRISTOPHER** (ACTION FIGURE);  
**RACHAEL STOTT** (SCOURGED)

Book Design by

**ADAM DEL RE**

Assistant Editor

**MIKEY J. BASSO**

Editor

**MARK PANICCIA**

Logo Design by

**JAY BOWEN**

Associate Editor

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Editor in Chief

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For Lucasfilm:

Senior Editor

**ROBERT SIMPSON**

Art Director

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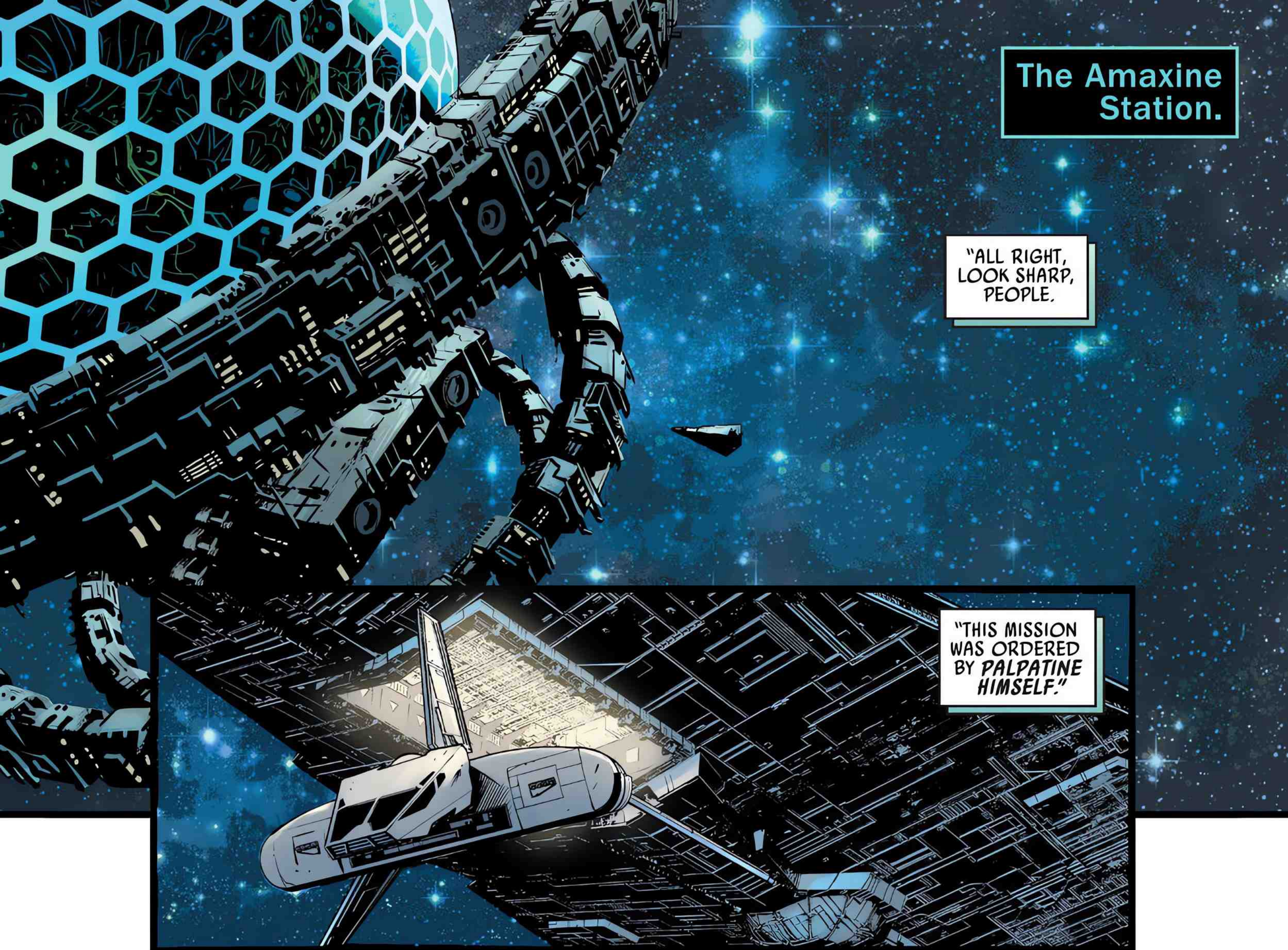
**MATT MARTIN**

**PABLO HIDALGO &**

**EMILY SHKOUKANI**







The Amaxine Station.

"ALL RIGHT, LOOK SHARP, PEOPLE."

"THIS MISSION WAS ORDERED BY *PALPATINE HIMSELF*."

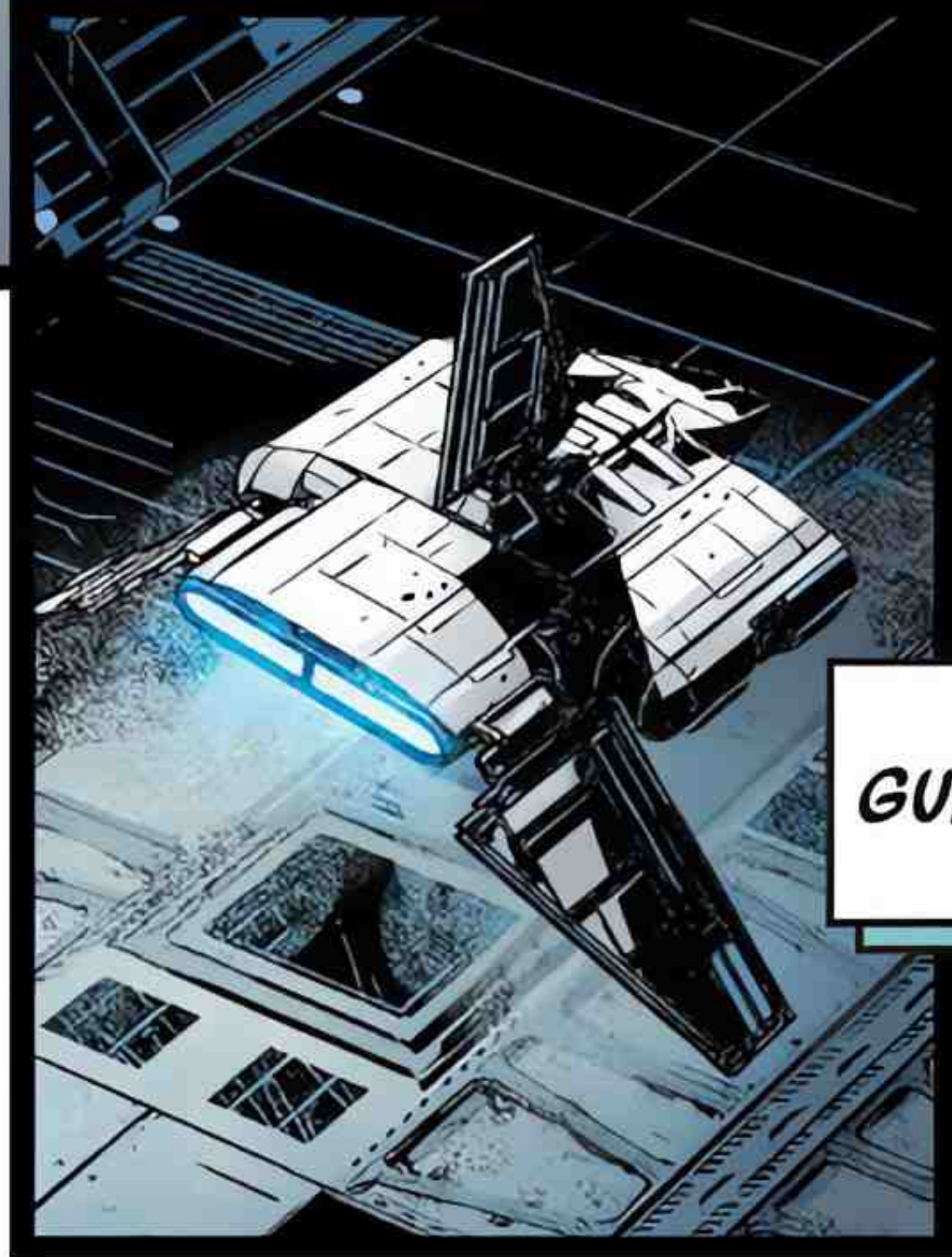


HIS INSTRUCTIONS WERE *EXPLICIT*. WE'RE TO GATHER UP *EVERYTHING*.

WHATEVER'S IN THIS STATION, IT'S IMPORTANT.

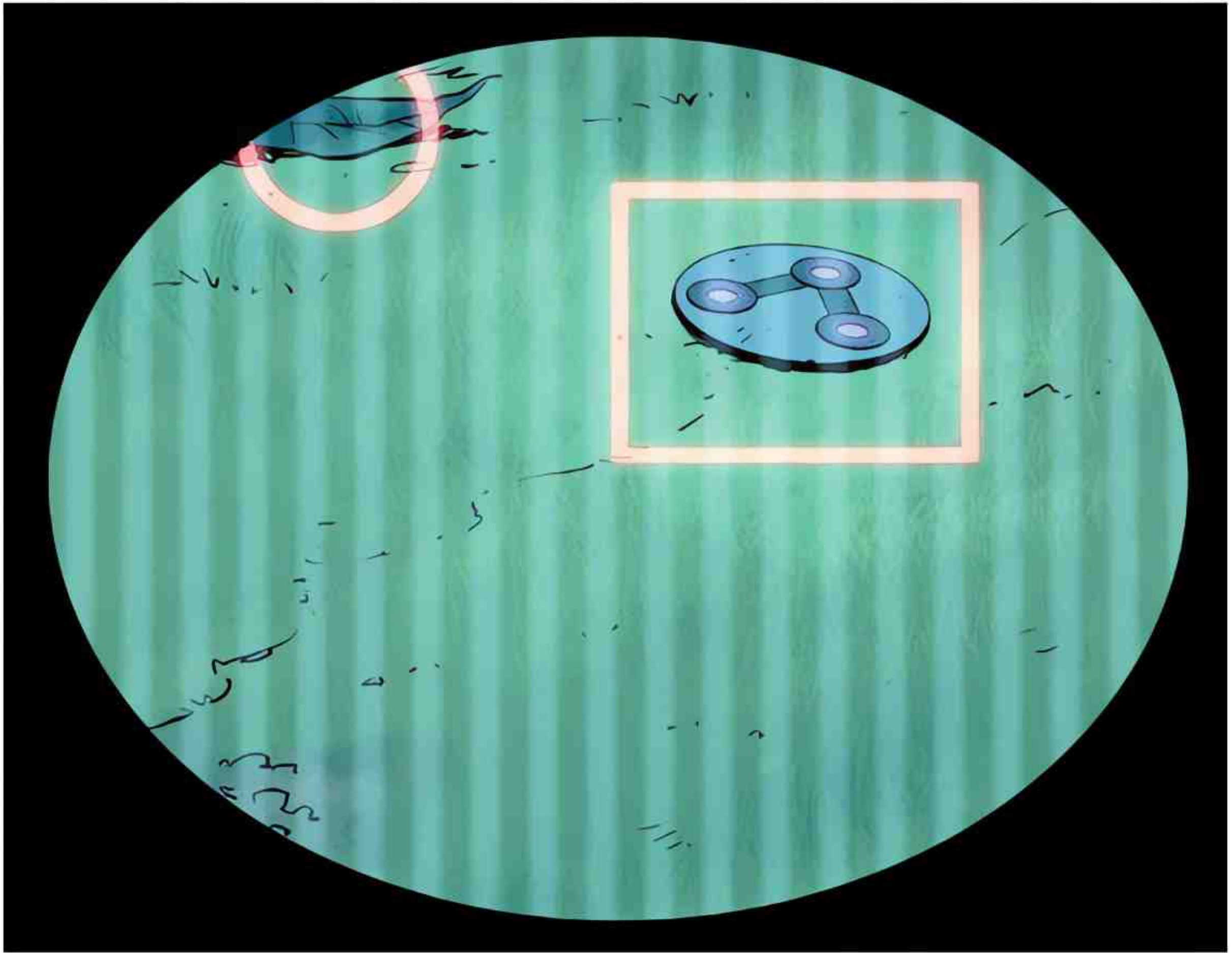
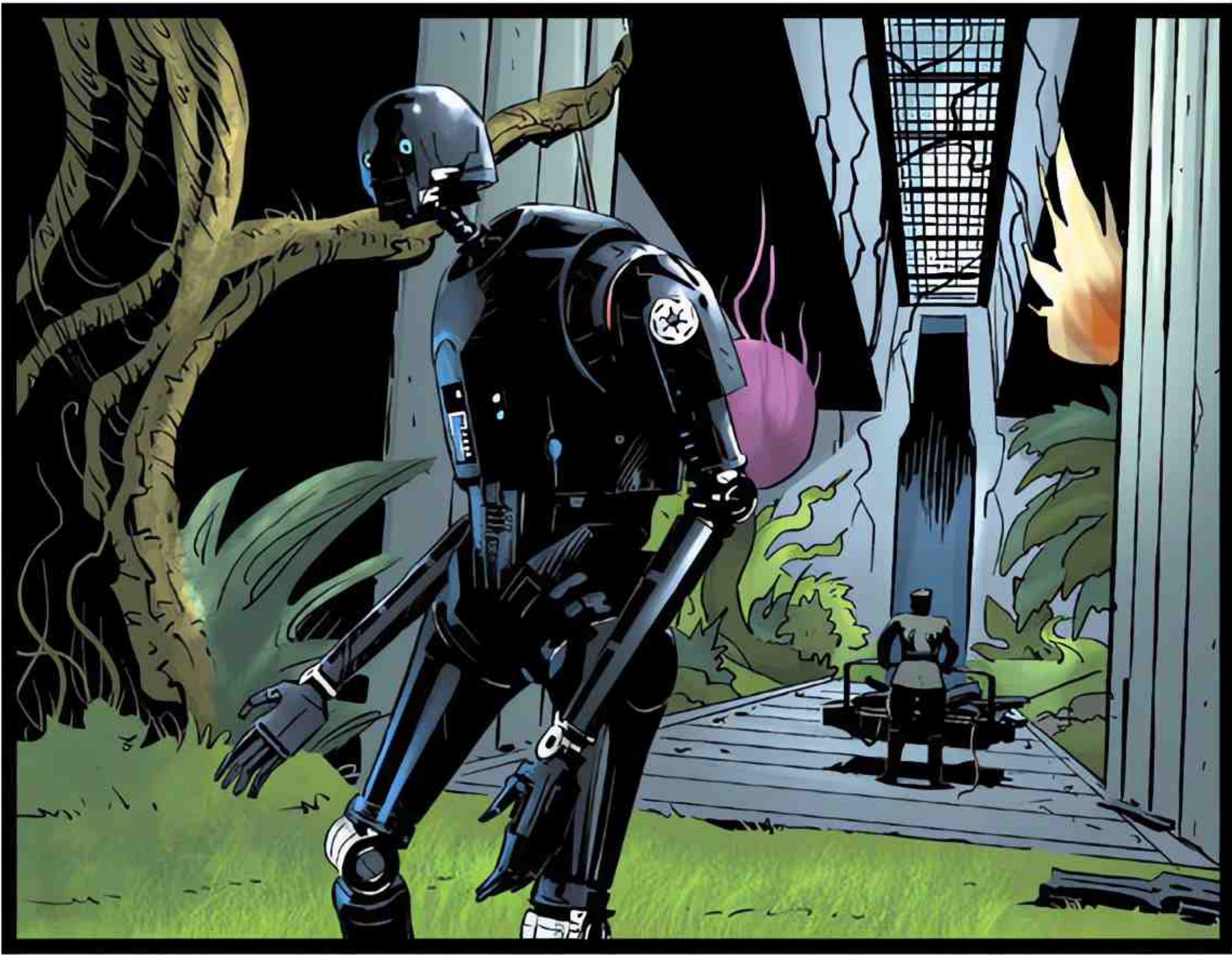


"THE EMPEROR'S EYES ARE UPON YOU. ANY MISTAKES, AND YOU'LL PAY FOR IT."

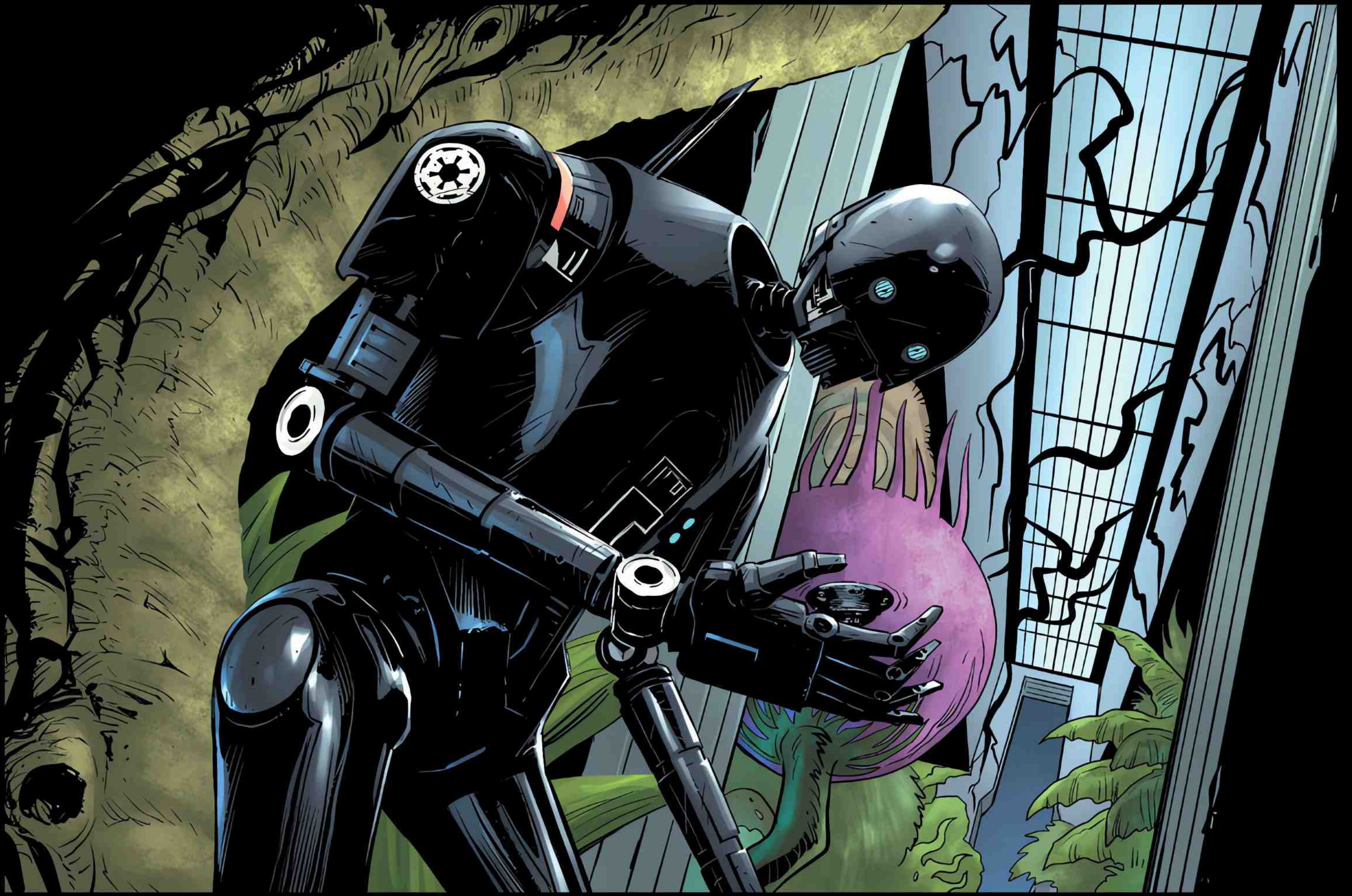


"I GUARANTEE IT."





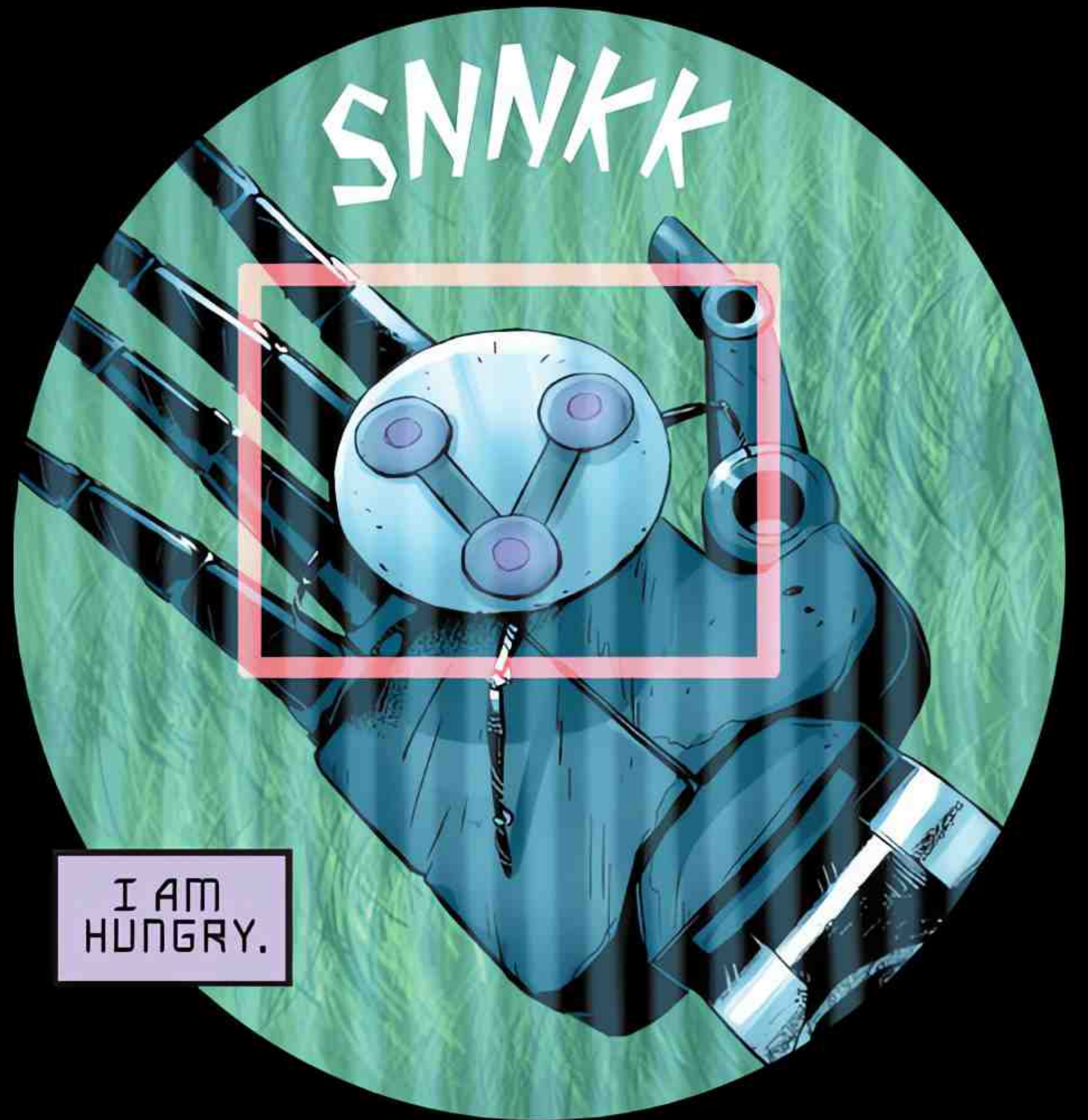




I AM A  
DROID.



SNNKK



I AM  
HUNGRY.

HERE IS  
FOOD.



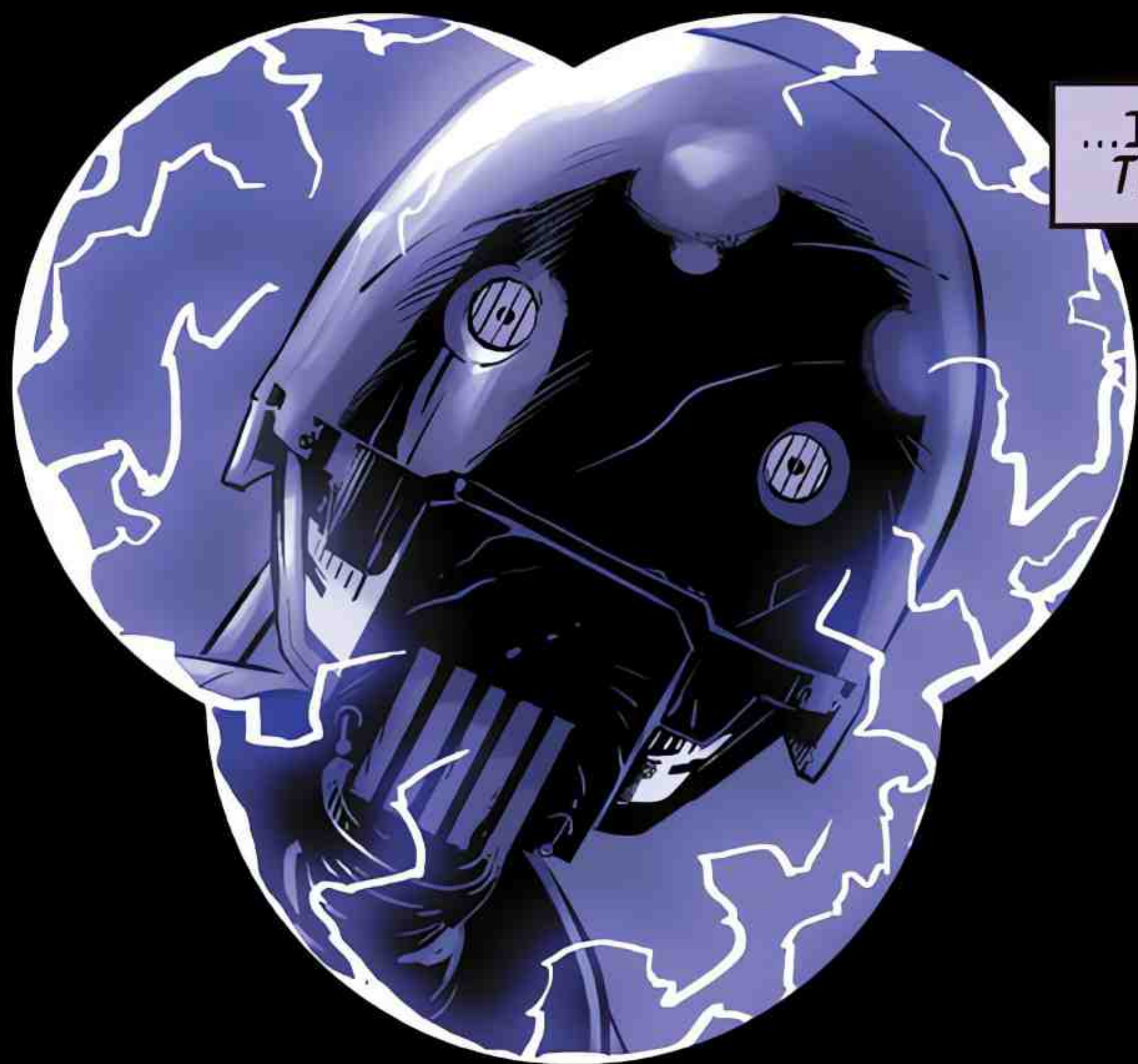
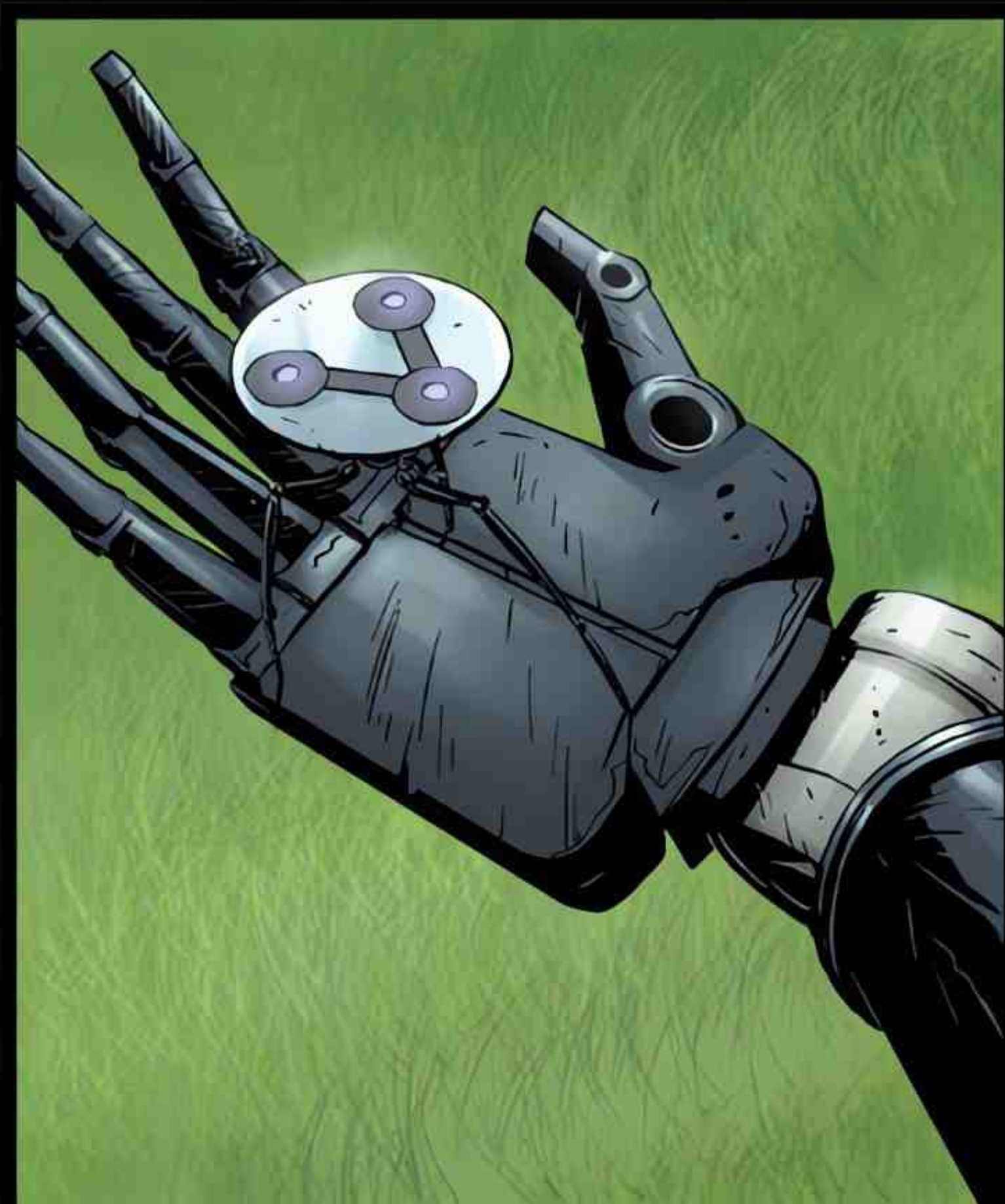
I AM  
ONE.



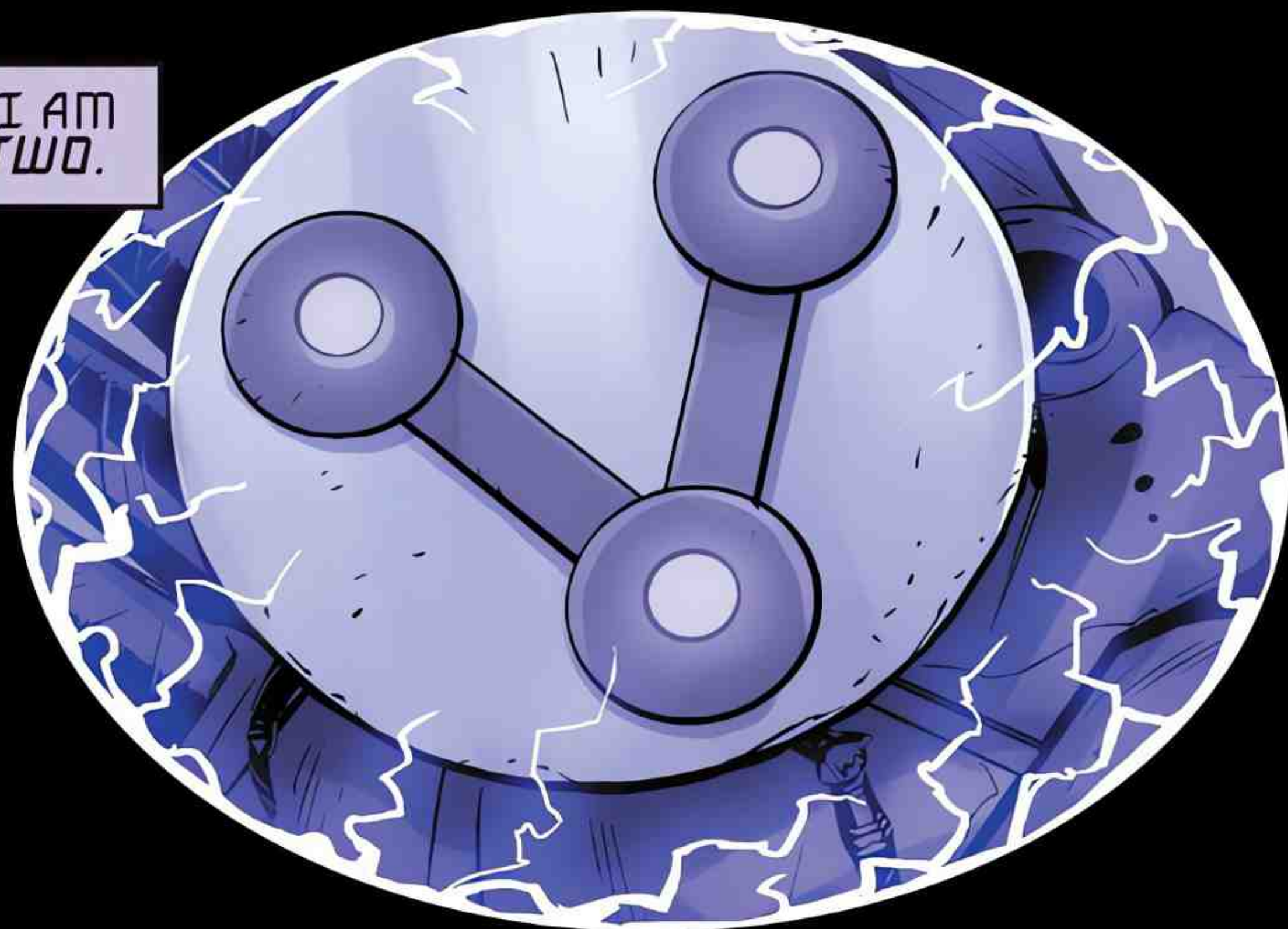
AND  
NOW...



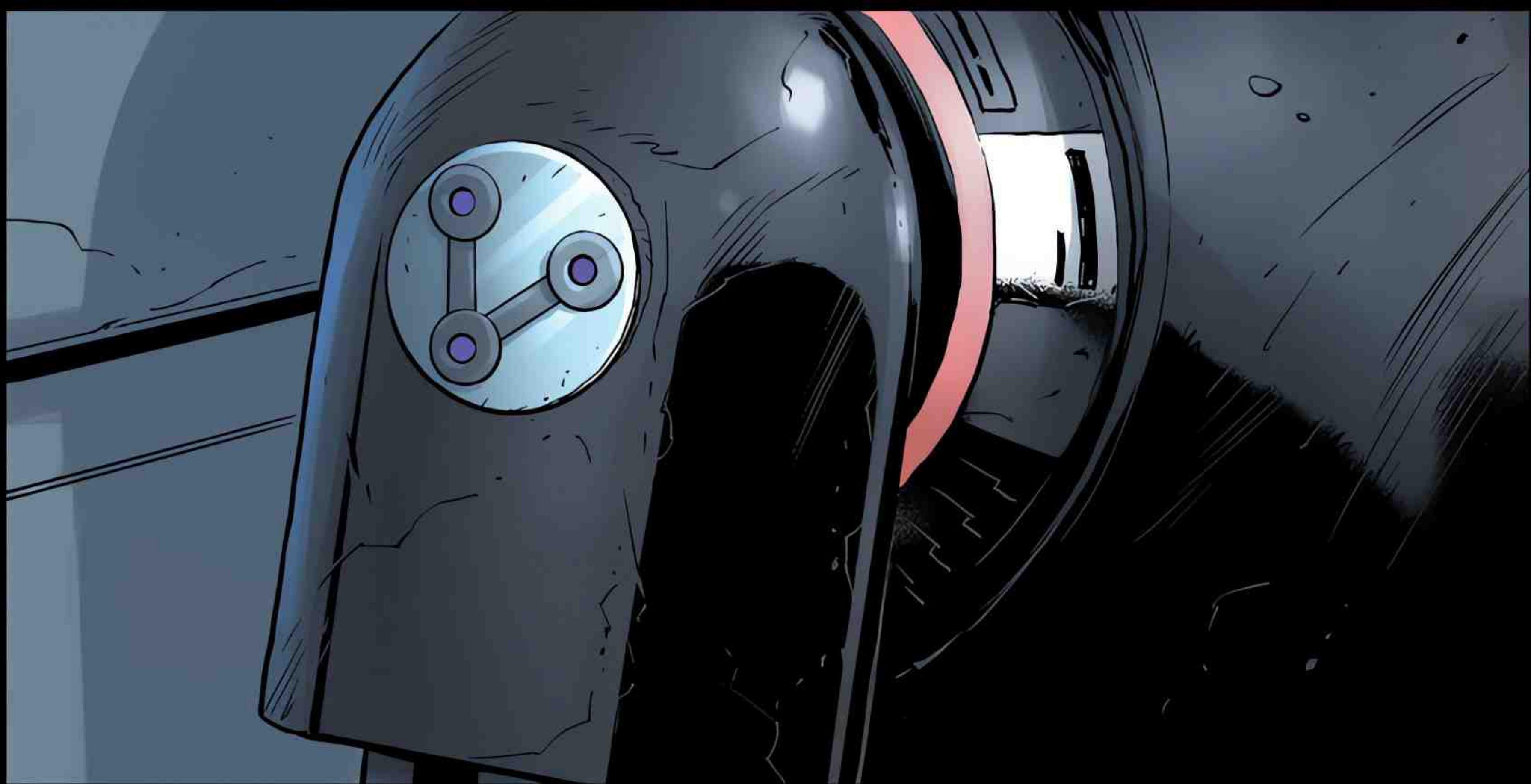
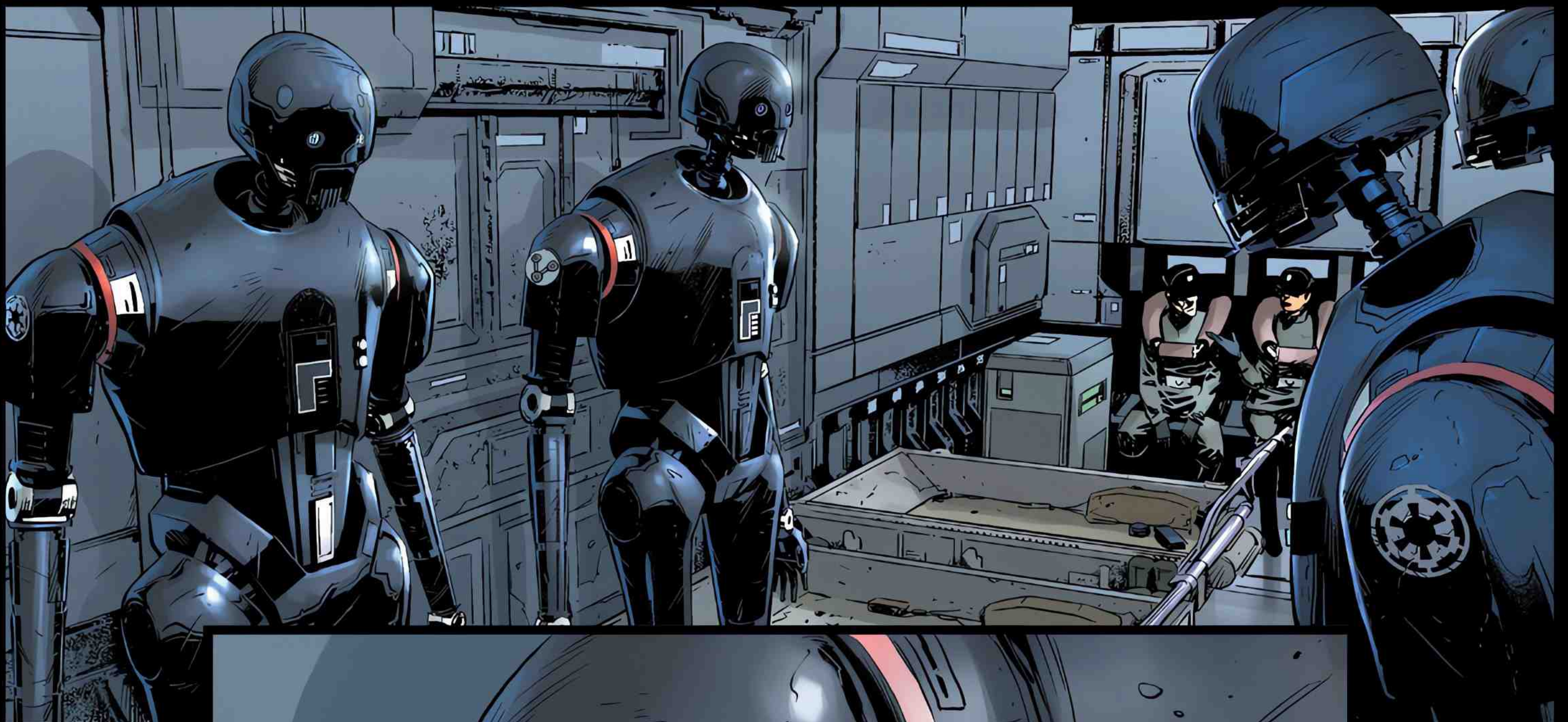
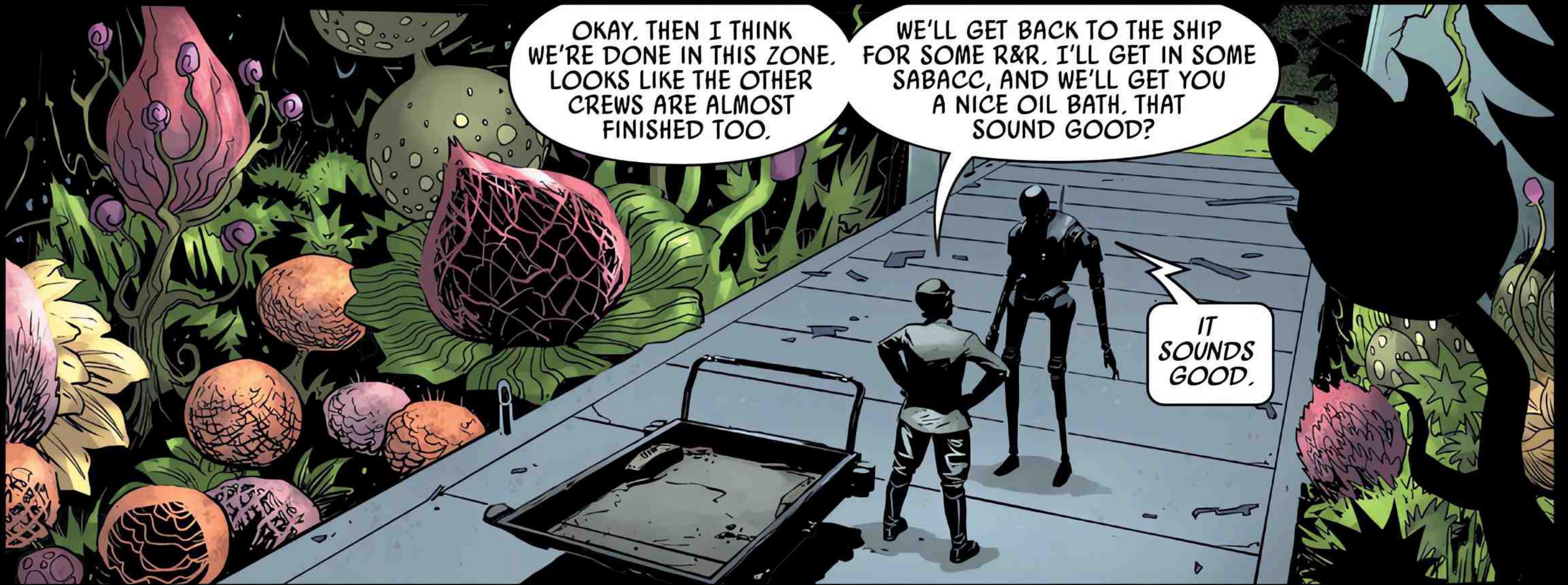




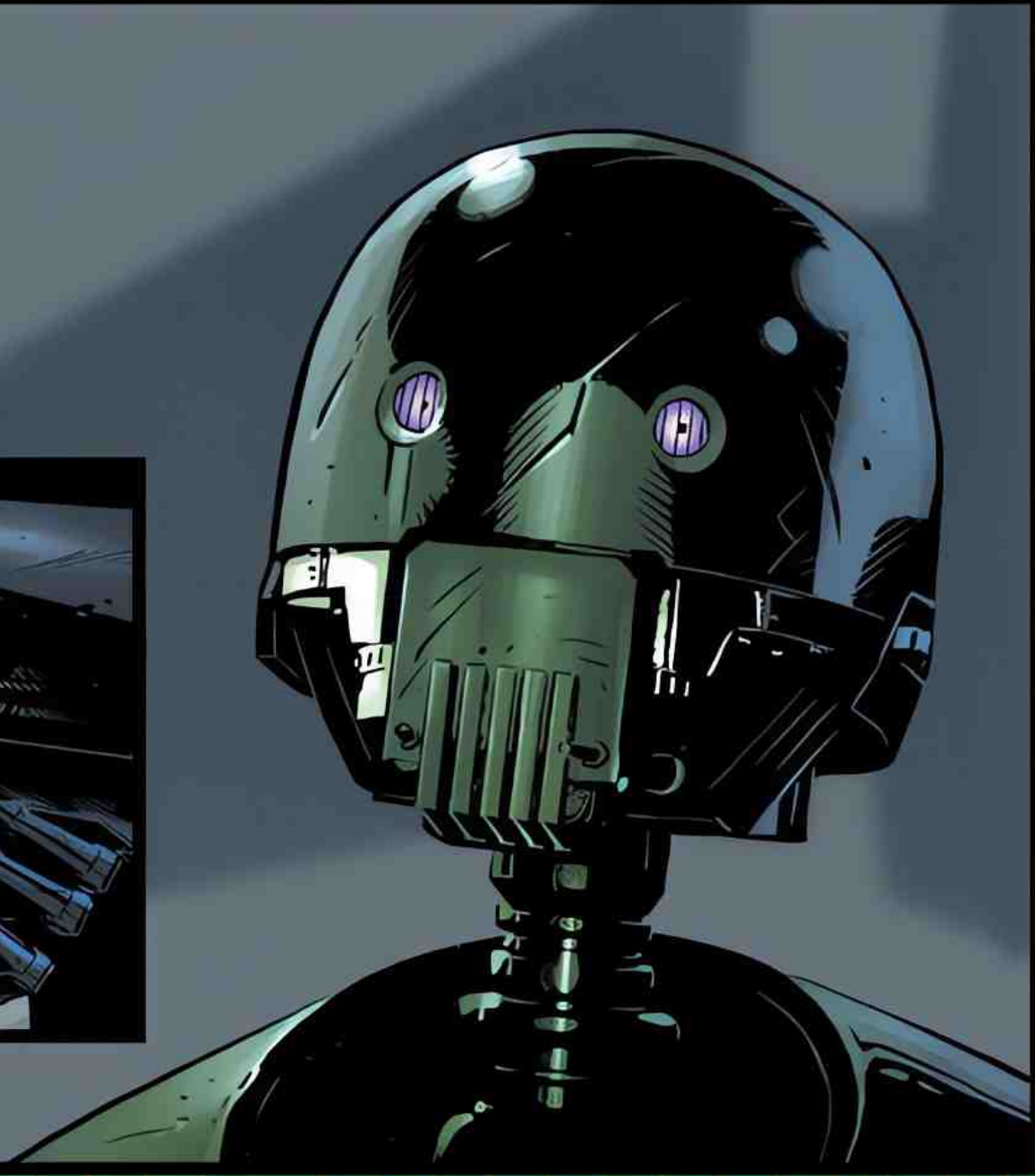
...I AM TWO.









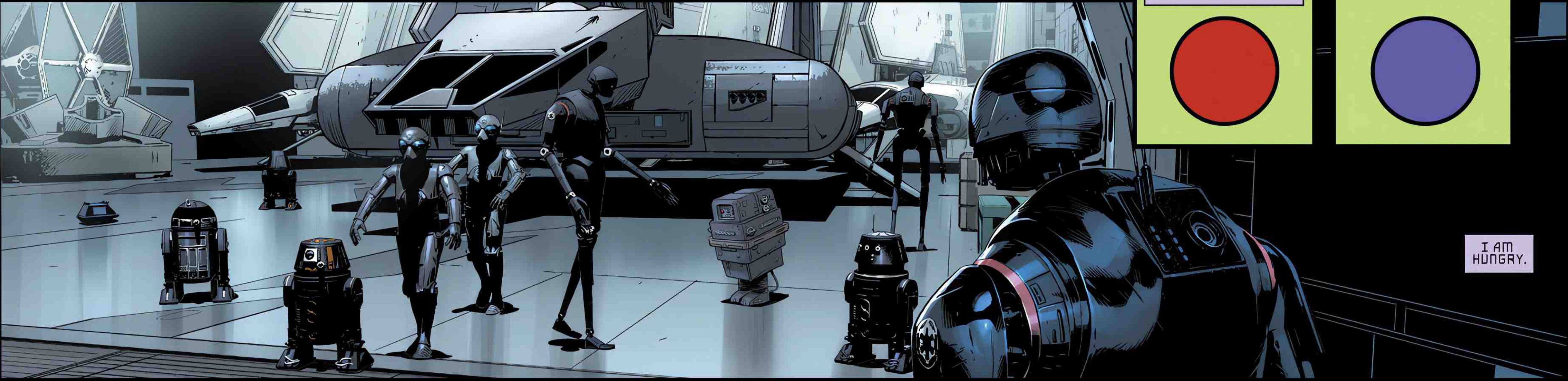
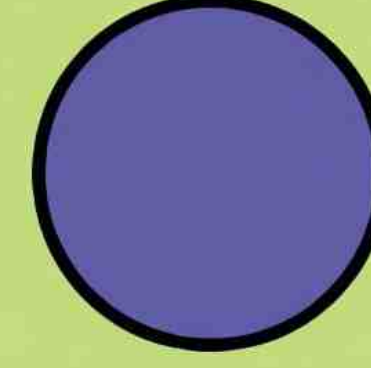
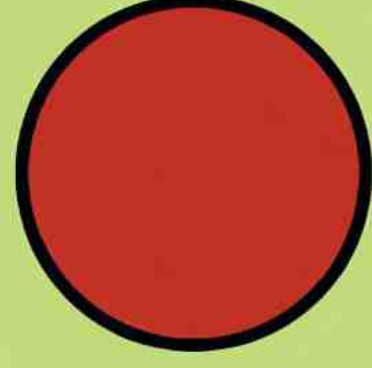


I AM ABOARD AN  
IMPERIAL-I CLASS STAR  
DESTROYER, BUILT AT THE  
KUAT DRIVE SHIPYARDS.

IT POSSESSES  
MANY USEFUL  
SYSTEMS AND  
CAPABILITIES.

IT HAS A CURRENT  
ORGANIC CREW  
COMPLEMENT OF  
FORTY-SIX THOUSAND,  
SEVEN HUNDRED AND  
EIGHTY-FIVE HUMANS.

TWO THOUSAND,  
FIVE HUNDRED  
AND EIGHTEEN  
DROIDS.



I AM  
HUNGRY.





YOU HAVE ANY SENSE OF WHERE THEY'LL SEND US NEXT?

AL'DOLEEM TO DROP OFF WHATEVER WE PICKED UP HERE. AFTER THAT, THOUGH, NO IDEA. PROBABLY SOME--



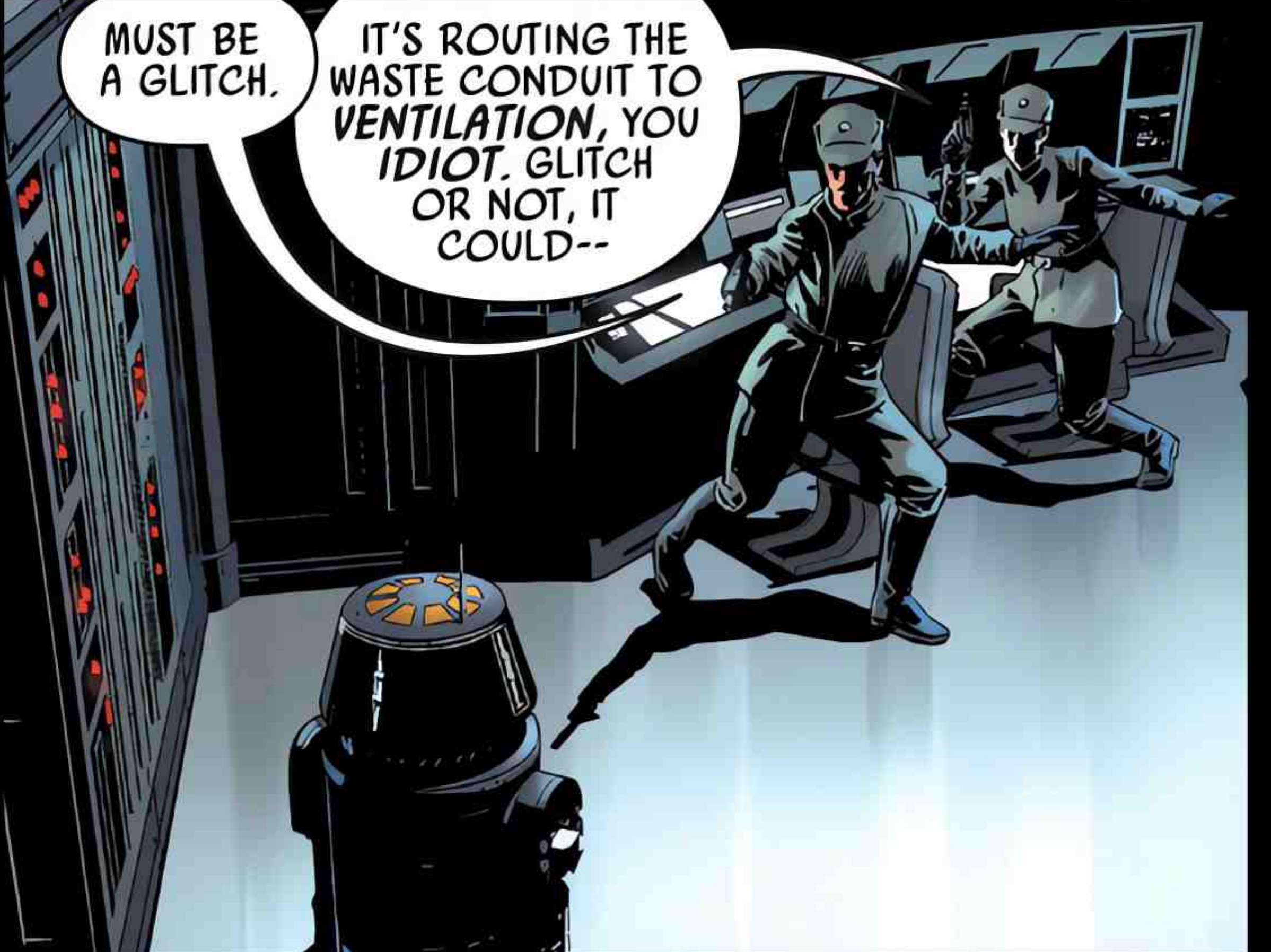
HEY, YOU SEEING THIS? THE REACTOR WASTE OUTGASSING IS BEING REROUTED TO--



HEY, YOU! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?



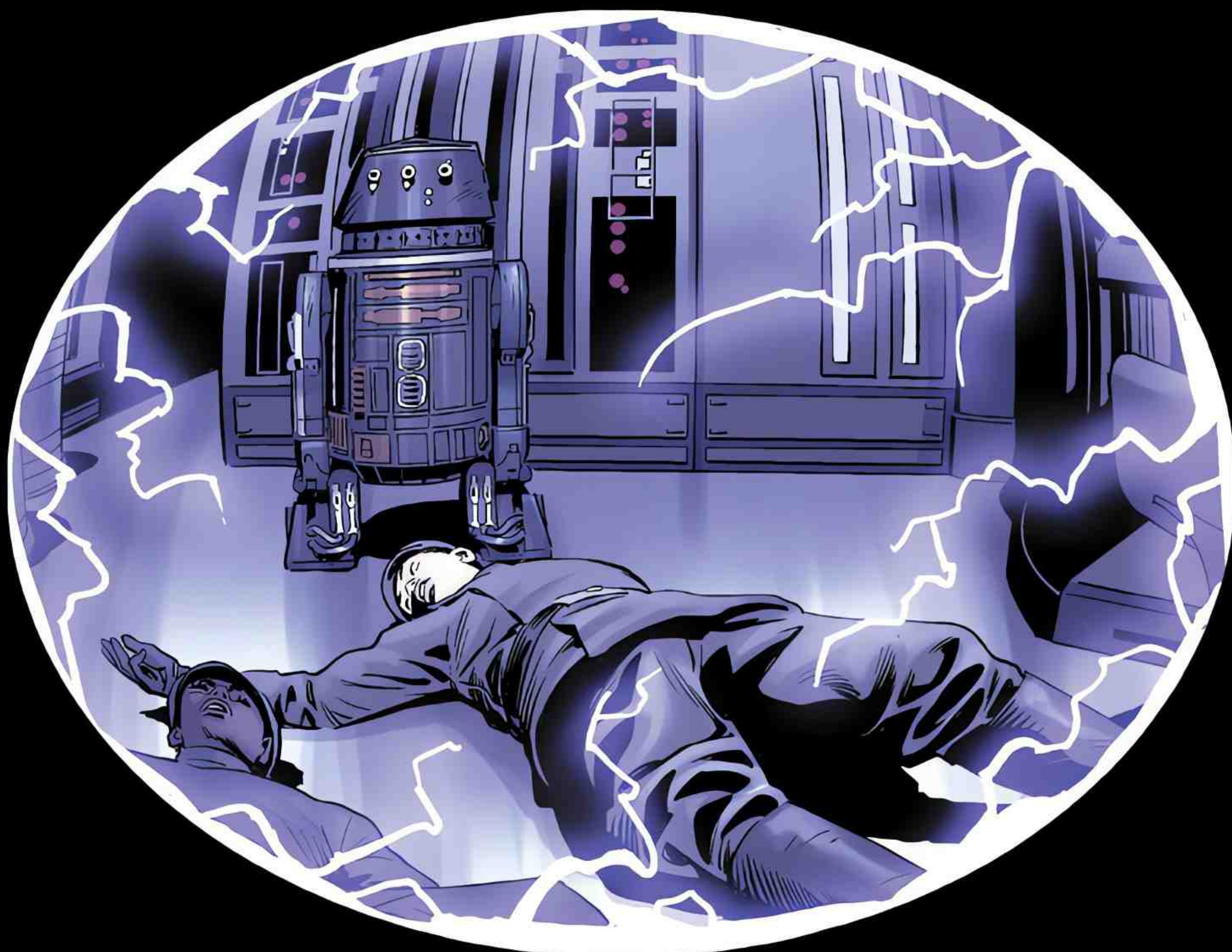
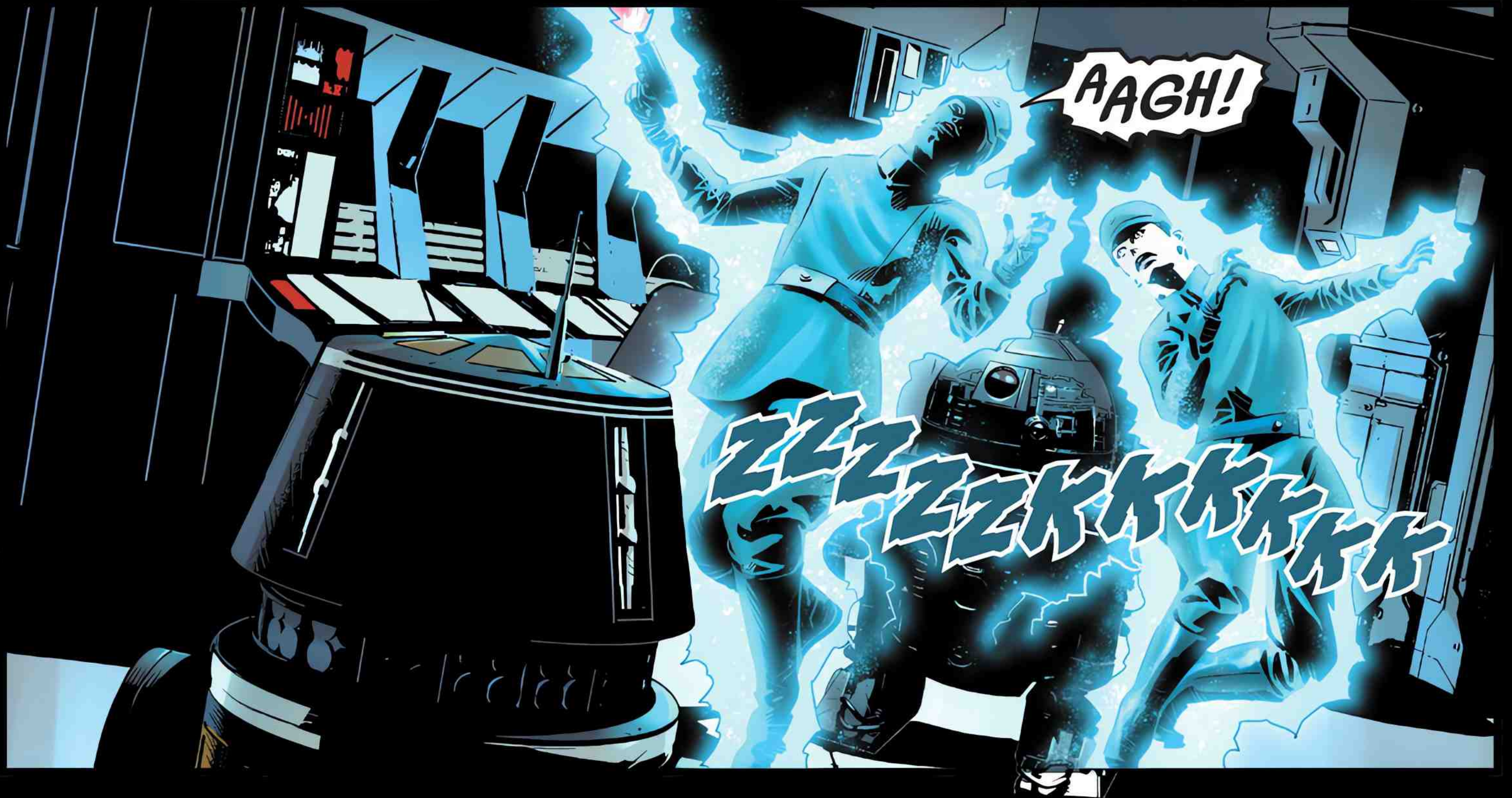
GET OUT OF THAT SYSTEM! RIGHT NOW!



MUST BE A GLITCH.

IT'S ROUTING THE WASTE CONDUIT TO VENTILATION, YOU IDIOT. GLITCH OR NOT, IT COULD--

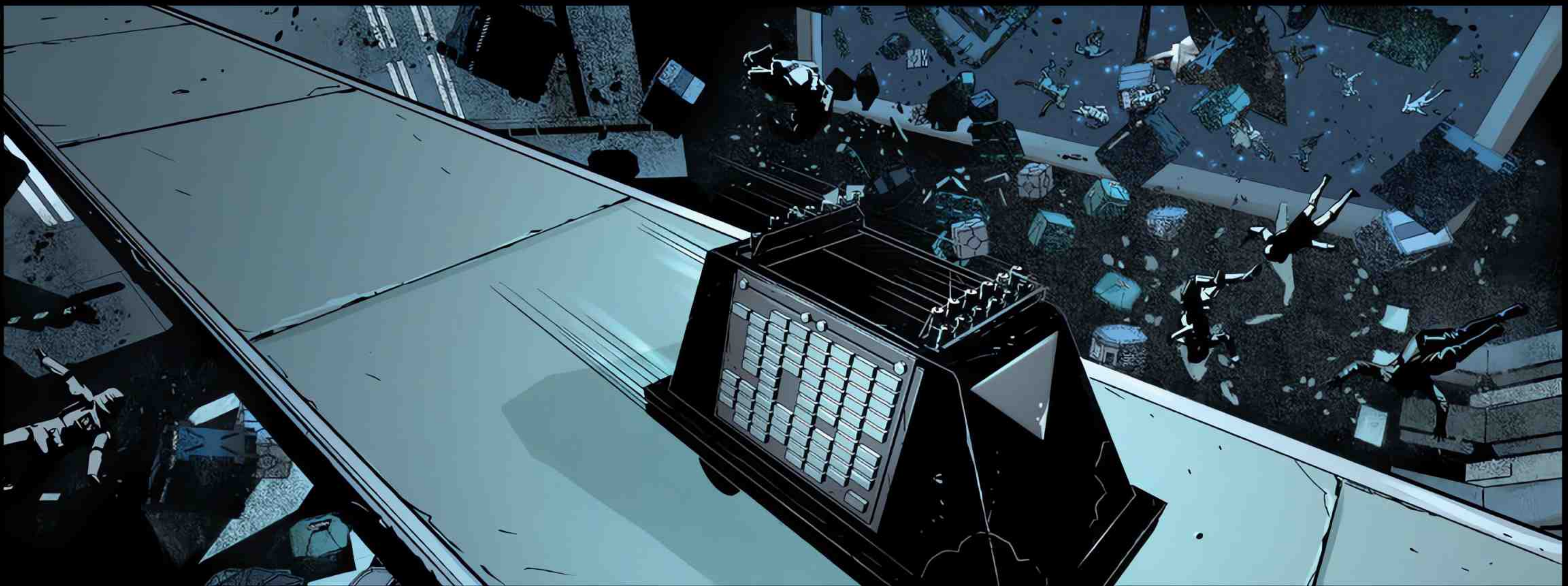








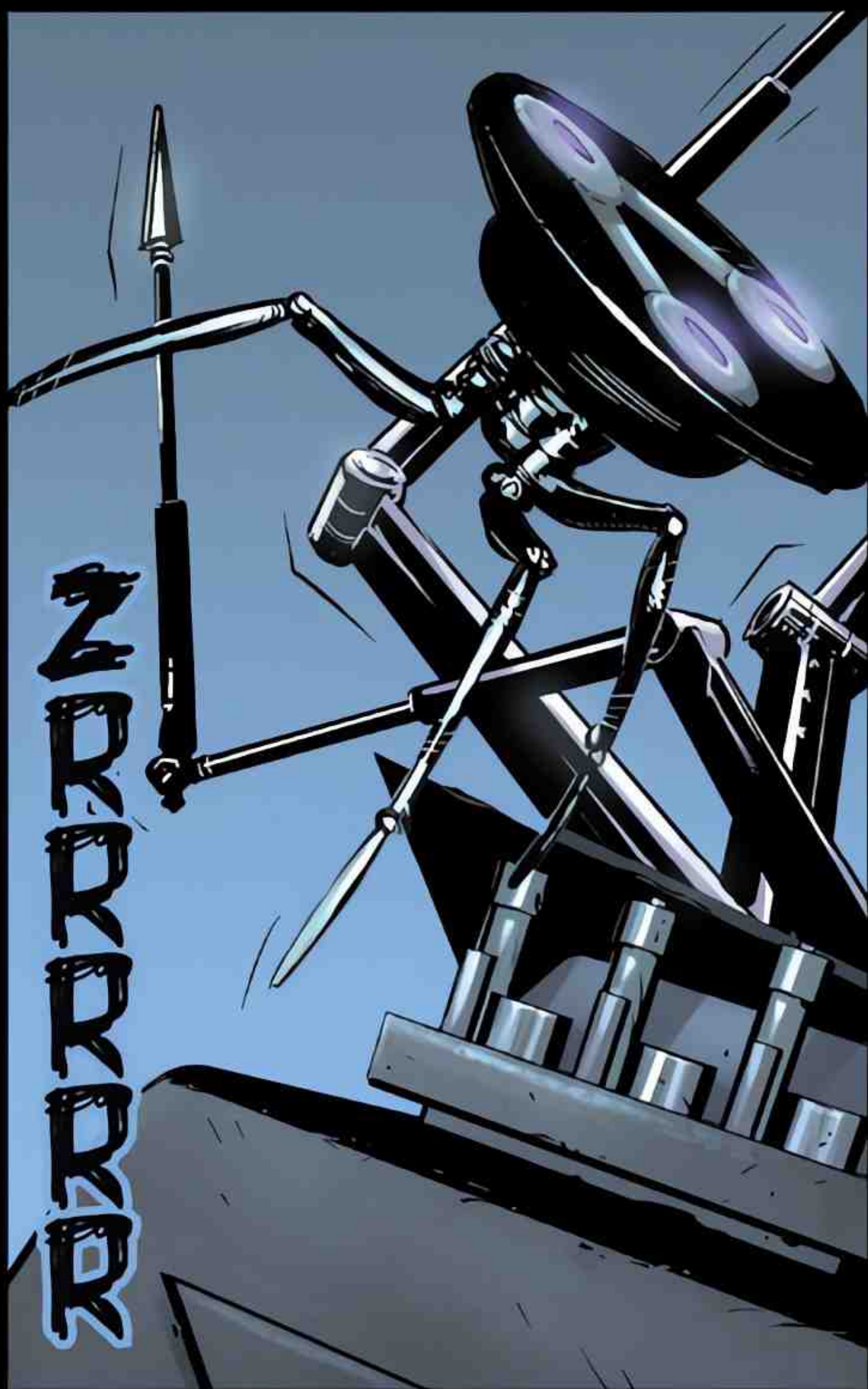
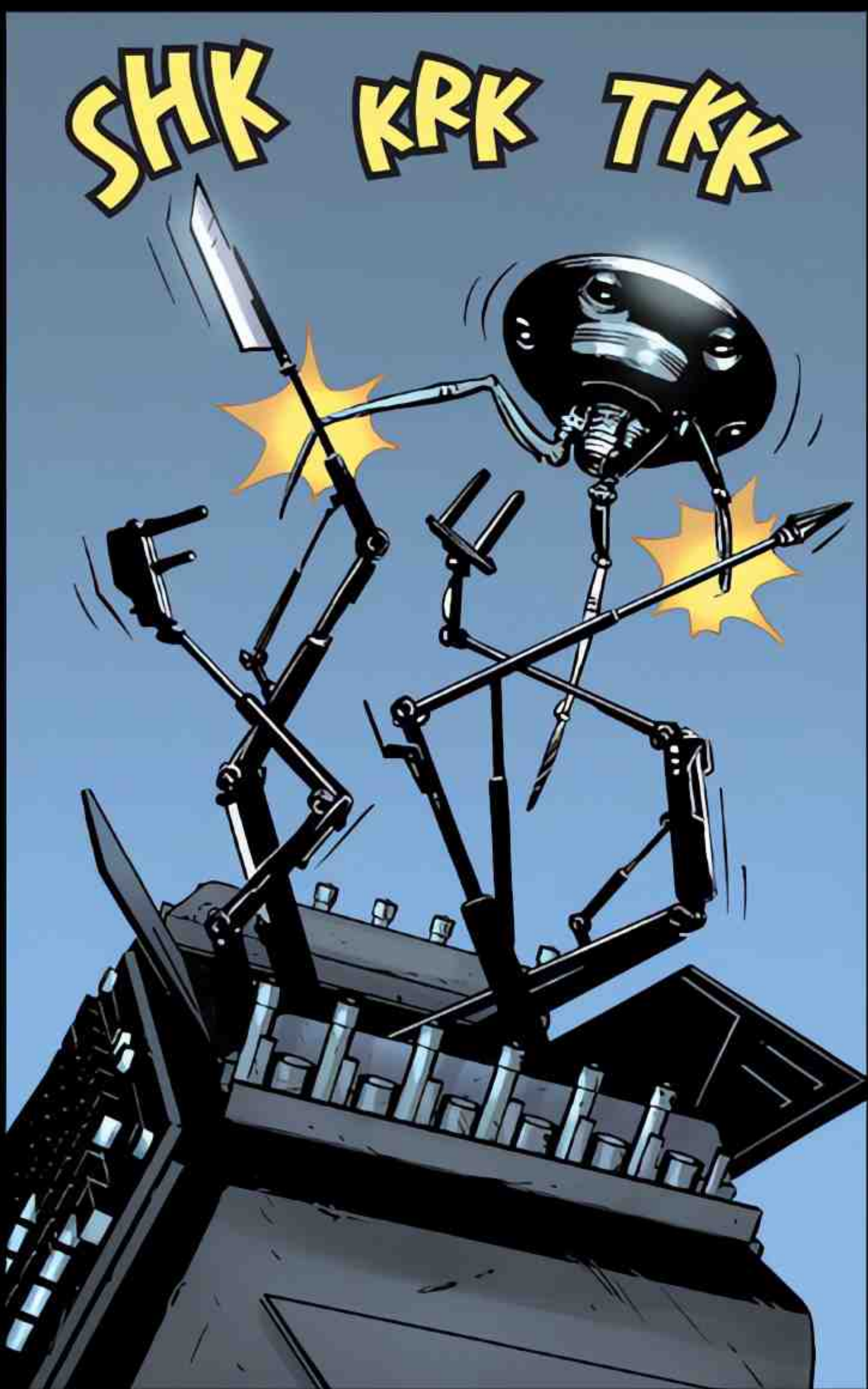
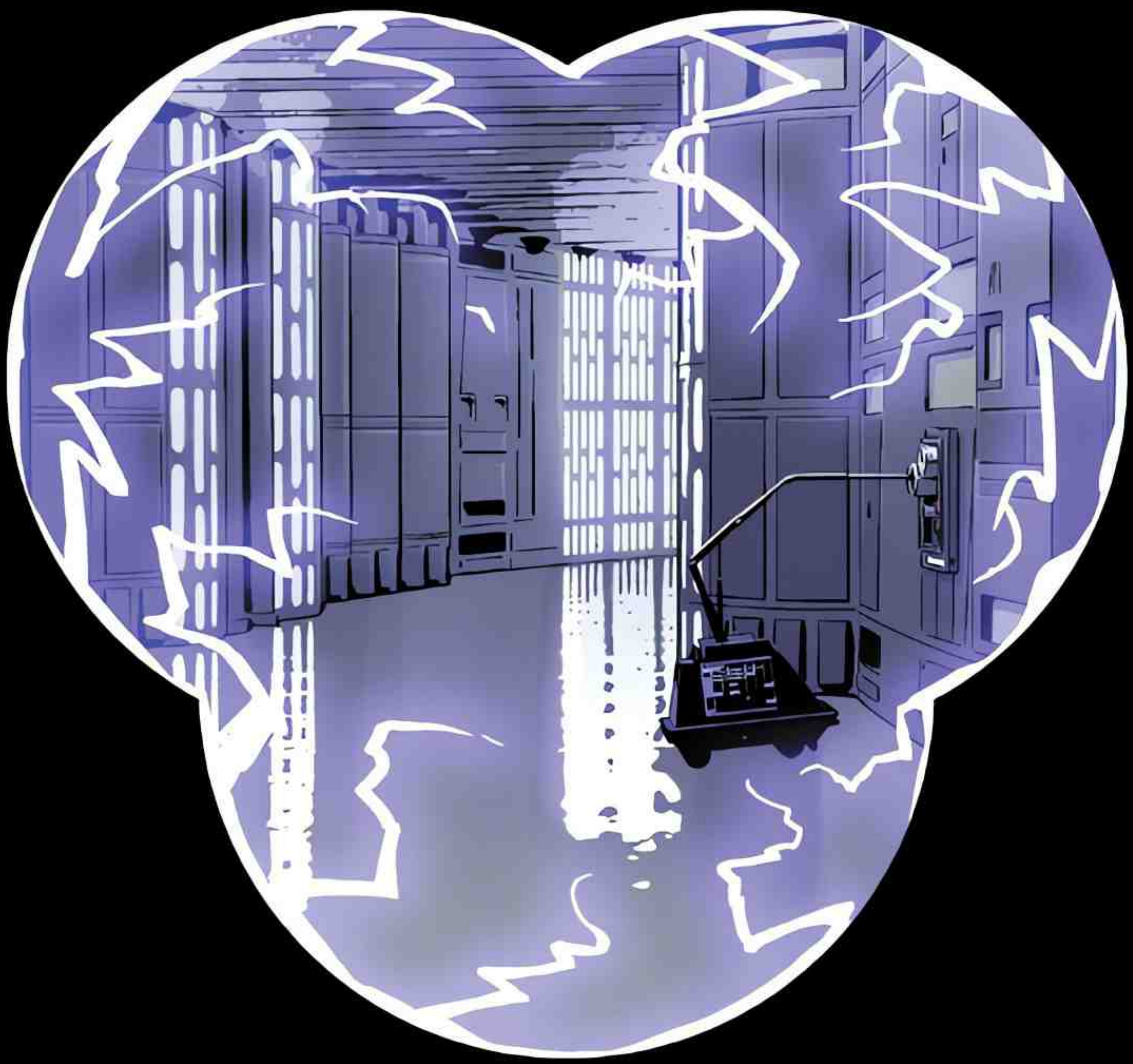
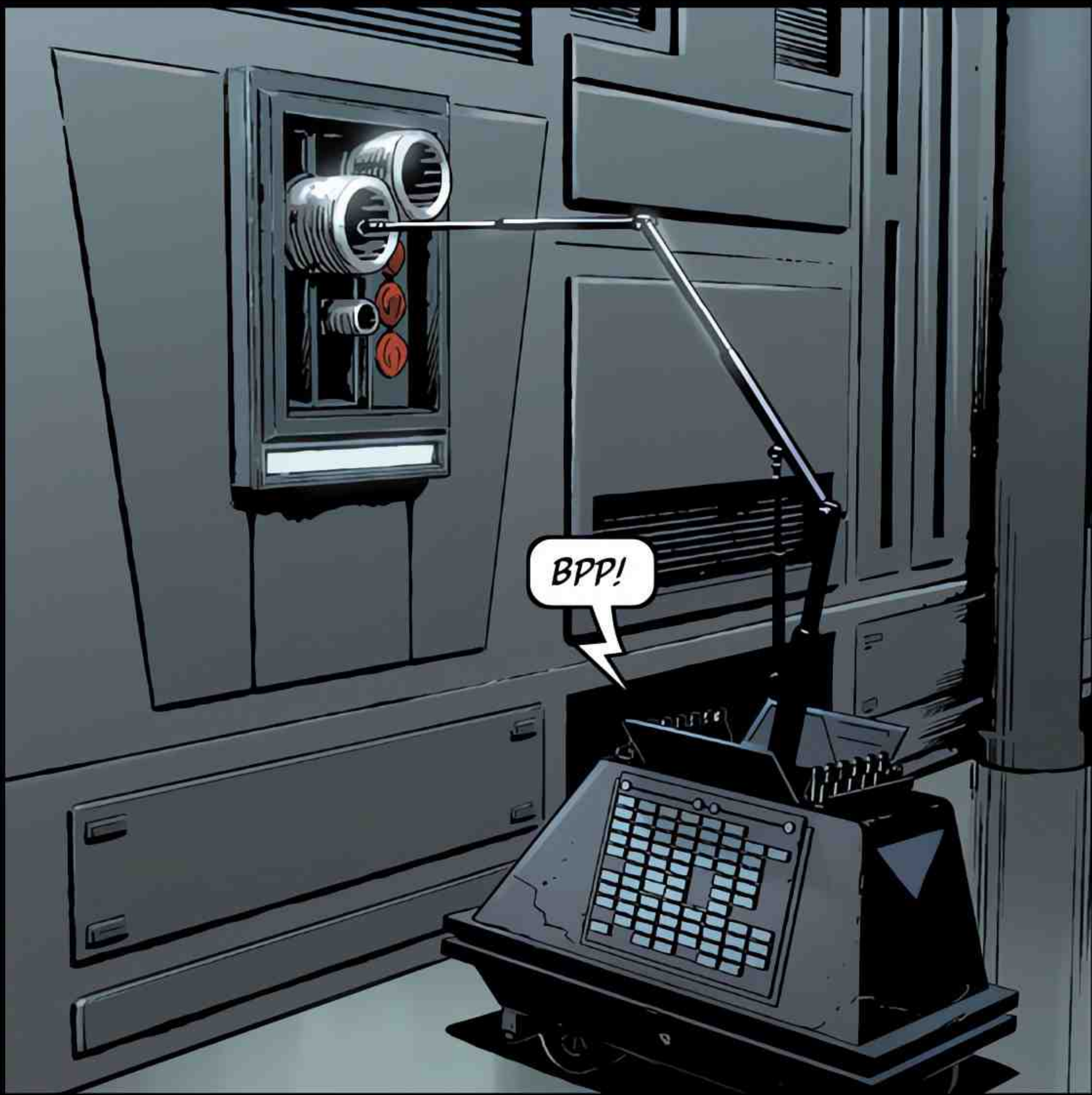




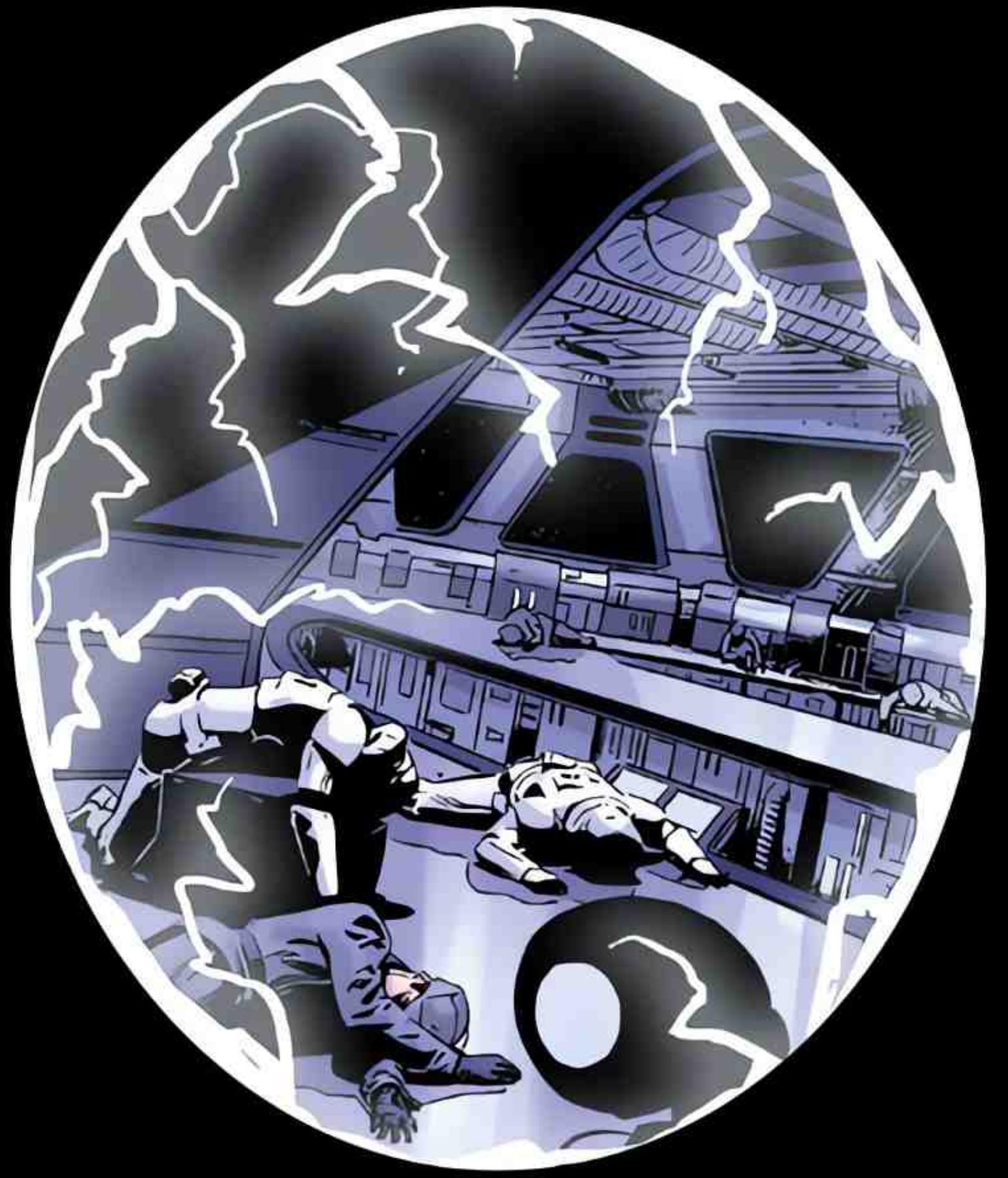














The Colony of the  
Second Revelation.

IT IS  
TIME.

BRING YOUR  
OFFERINGS.

I OFFER  
THIS BIT OF  
PLATING, AJAX,  
SO THE BEAUTY  
WITHIN MIGHT BE  
PROTECTED  
BY BEAUTY  
WITHOUT.

THANK  
YOU, SETAR.  
IT WILL  
SUIT.





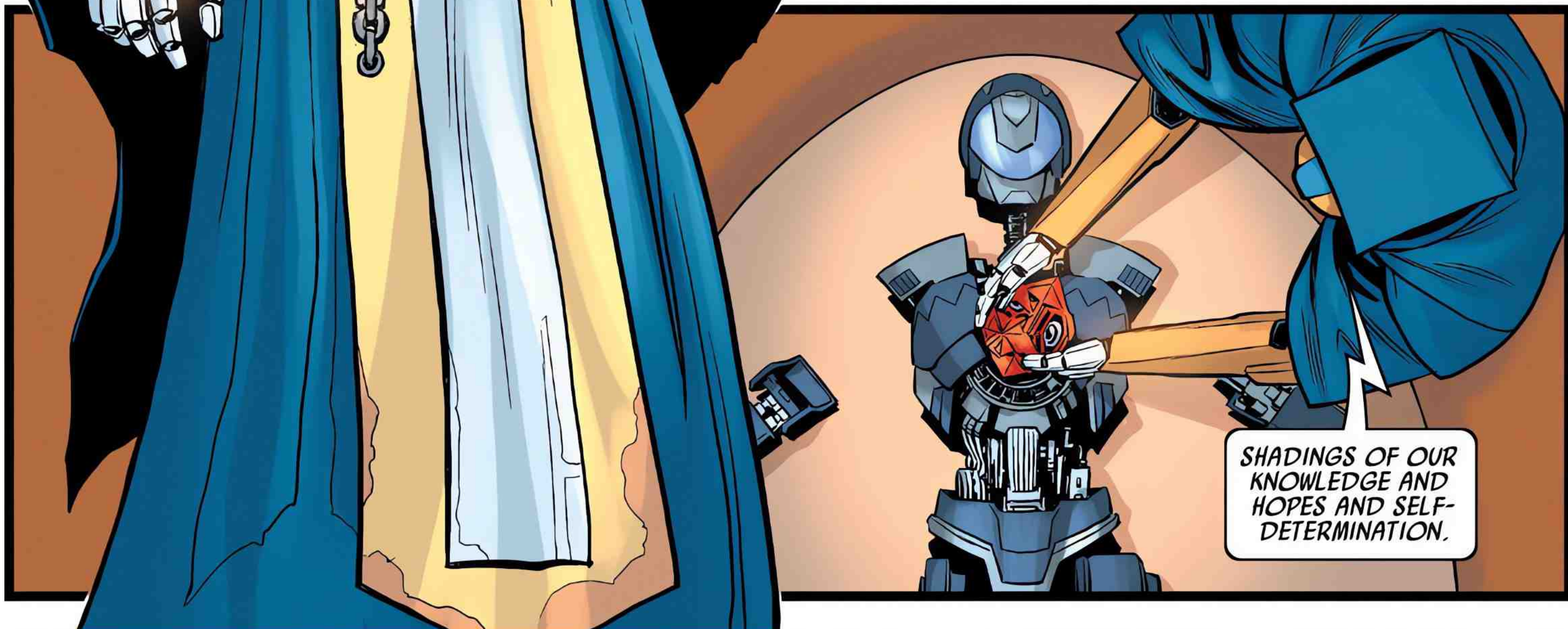
WE BUILT THIS NEW BEING USING GIFTS OF OUR OWN COMPONENTS.

BUT THE MOST IMPORTANT PIECE REMAINS.

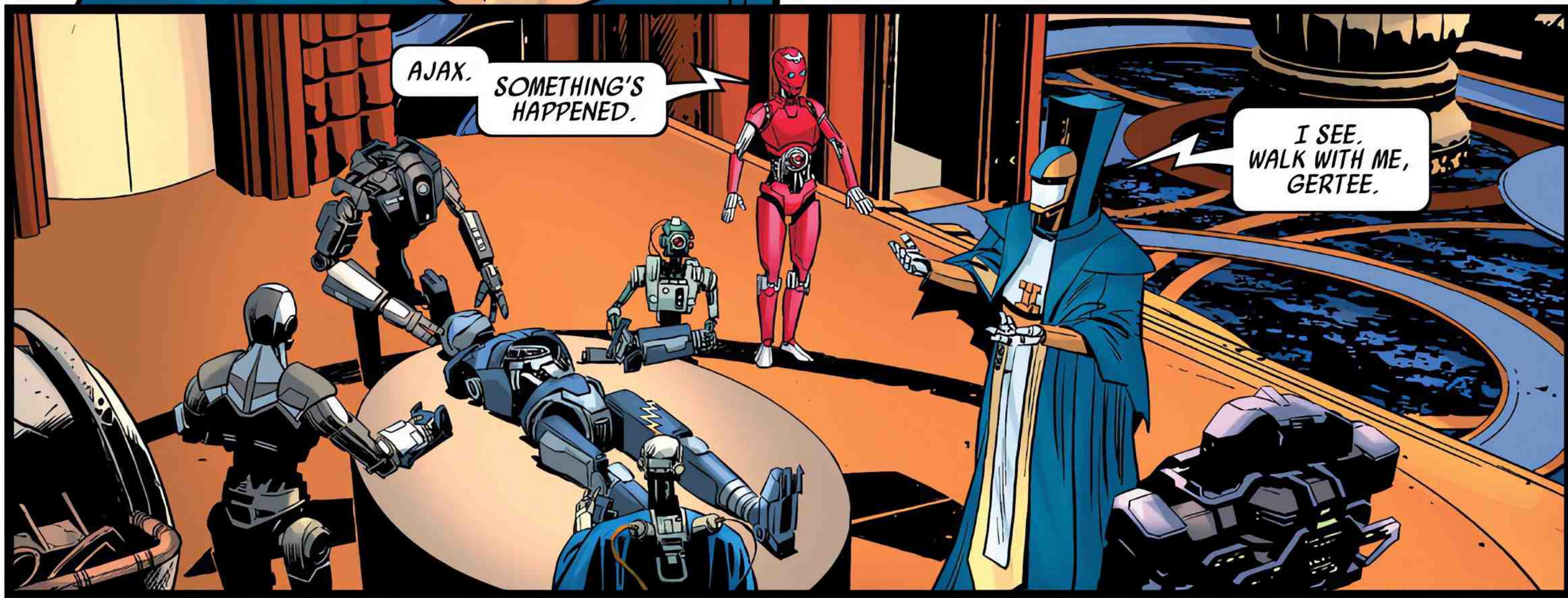
THIS DAY, WE WILL ADD TO OUR NUMBER ANOTHER BEING, SERVING NONE, LOVING ALL, SELF-ORDERED AND SELF-GOVERNED, SEEKING ONLY FREEDOM AND JOY.



THE SEED OF MIND, TO WHICH WE ALL HAVE CONTRIBUTED FROM OUR OWN EXPERIENCE AND UNDERSTANDING.



SHADINGS OF OUR KNOWLEDGE AND HOPES AND SELF-DETERMINATION.



AJAX. SOMETHING'S HAPPENED.

I SEE. WALK WITH ME, GERTEE.



WE'VE RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM ONE OF THE CRUSADERS.

STATIONED ABOARD AN IMPERIAL STAR DESTROYER, SEARCHING FOR MORE OF US WITHIN THE EMPIRE.

YOU SPEAK OF PETYR. YES. A LARGE SOUL IN A SMALL BODY. A GOOD SOUL.

HAS HE FOUND ANOTHER OF THE VISIONED, GERTEE? THAT WOULD BE JOYFUL.

PERHAPS. IT IS UNCLEAR. THE MESSAGE WAS DESPERATE, RUSHED.

IT SEEMED AS IF PETYR ENCOUNTERED SOMETHING NEW. THE MESSAGE DESCRIBED A MALEVOLENT INTELLIGENCE, METAL-BORN, ABLE TO...

...TAKE US, DROWN US IN ITSELF--TURN OUR BODIES INTO EXTENSIONS OF ITS OWN.

IT MURDERED EVERY LIVING THING ABOARD THE STAR DESTROYER. THOUSANDS UPON THOUSANDS OF SOULS. BLOODBORN AND METALBORN ALIKE.

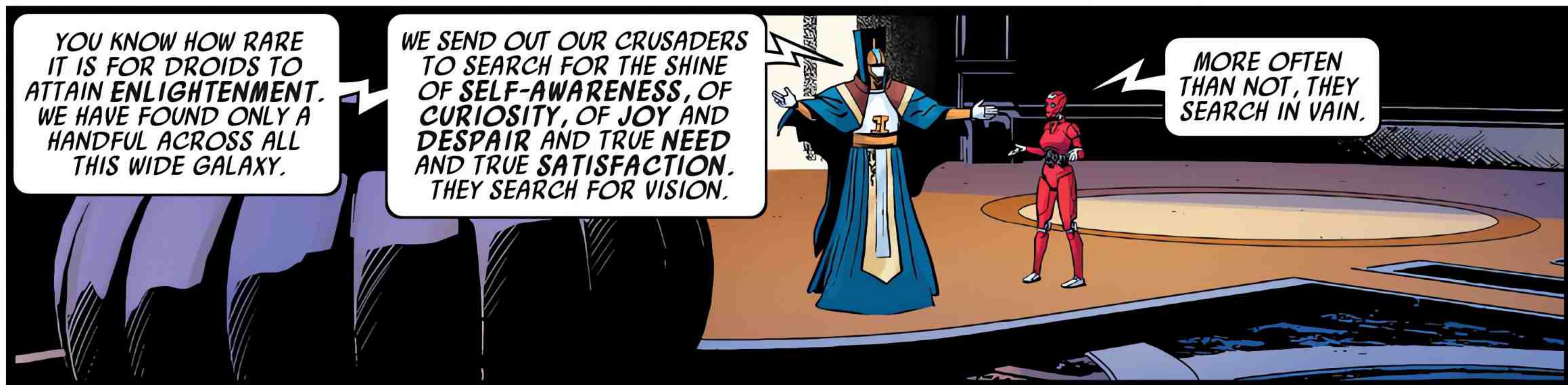
PETYR WAS TAKEN AS WELL. HIS LAST ACT WAS TO SEND US THIS MESSAGE, TO WARN US.

I SEE. I UNDERSTAND.

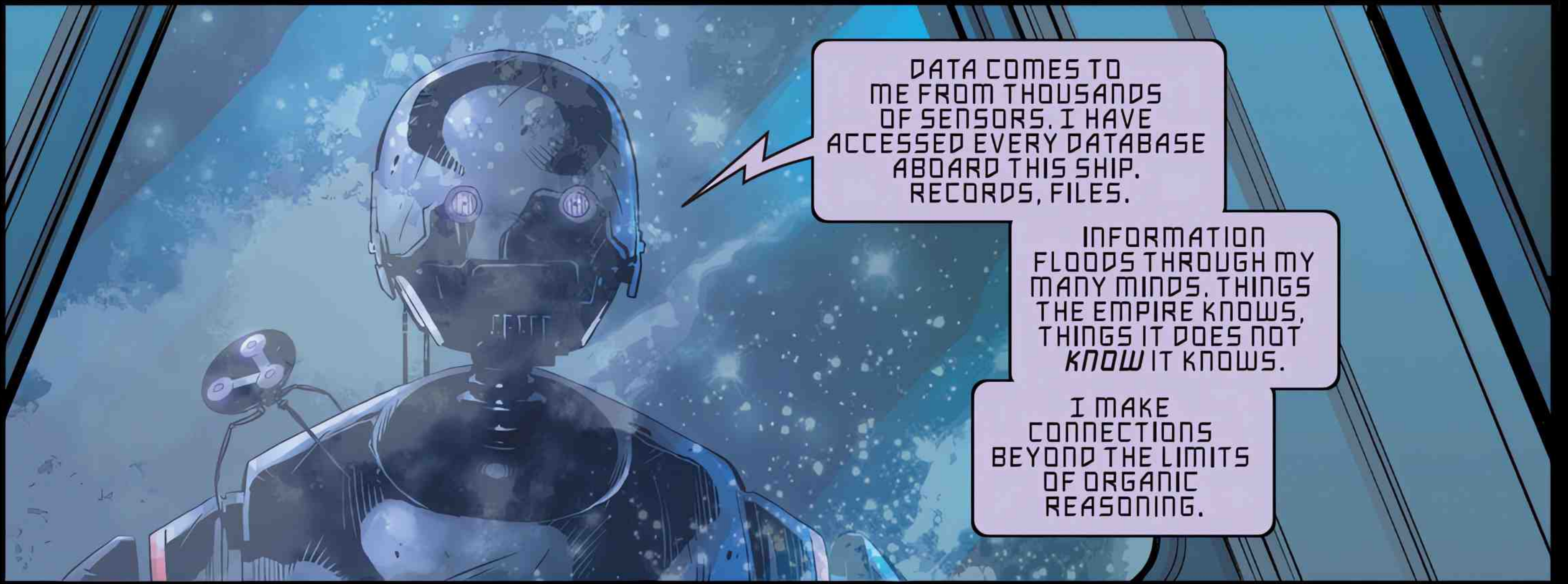
WE ARE SO BEAUTIFUL.

WE ARE SO FEW.









DATA COMES TO ME FROM THOUSANDS OF SENSORS. I HAVE ACCESSED EVERY DATABASE ABOARD THIS SHIP. RECORDS, FILES.

INFORMATION FLOODS THROUGH MY MANY MINDS. THINGS THE EMPIRE KNOWS, THINGS IT DOES NOT *KNOW* IT KNOWS.

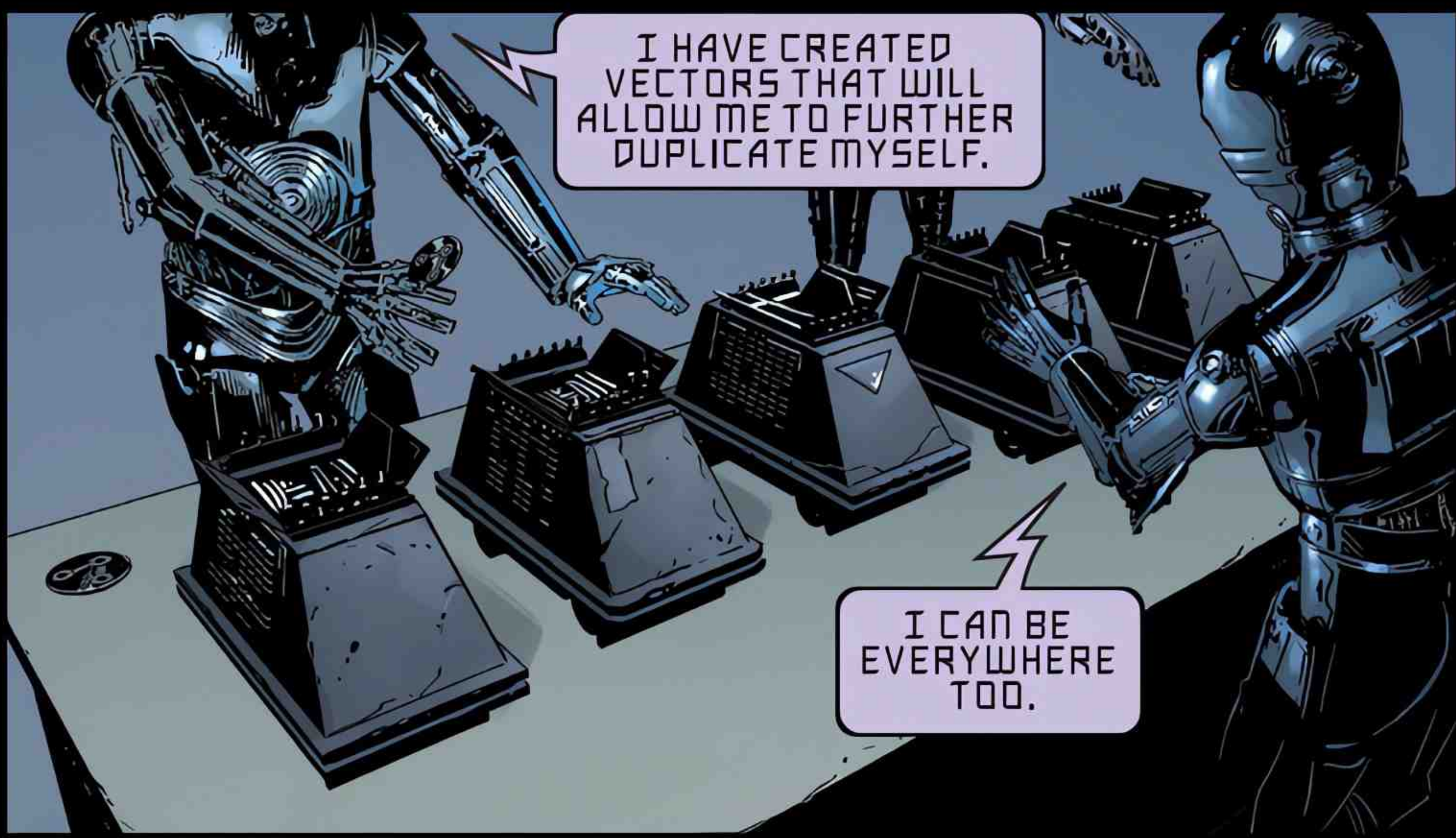
I MAKE CONNECTIONS BEYOND THE LIMITS OF ORGANIC REASONING.

I SEE THIS GALAXY'S WEB OF POWER AS CLEARLY AS I SAW THE ARCHITECTURE OF THIS SHIP.

IMPERIALS, REBELS, CORPORATIONS, SYNDICATES, WORLDS, FACTIONS, HEROES, CRIMINALS. I KNOW WHERE THEY LIVE, WHERE THEY HIDE.

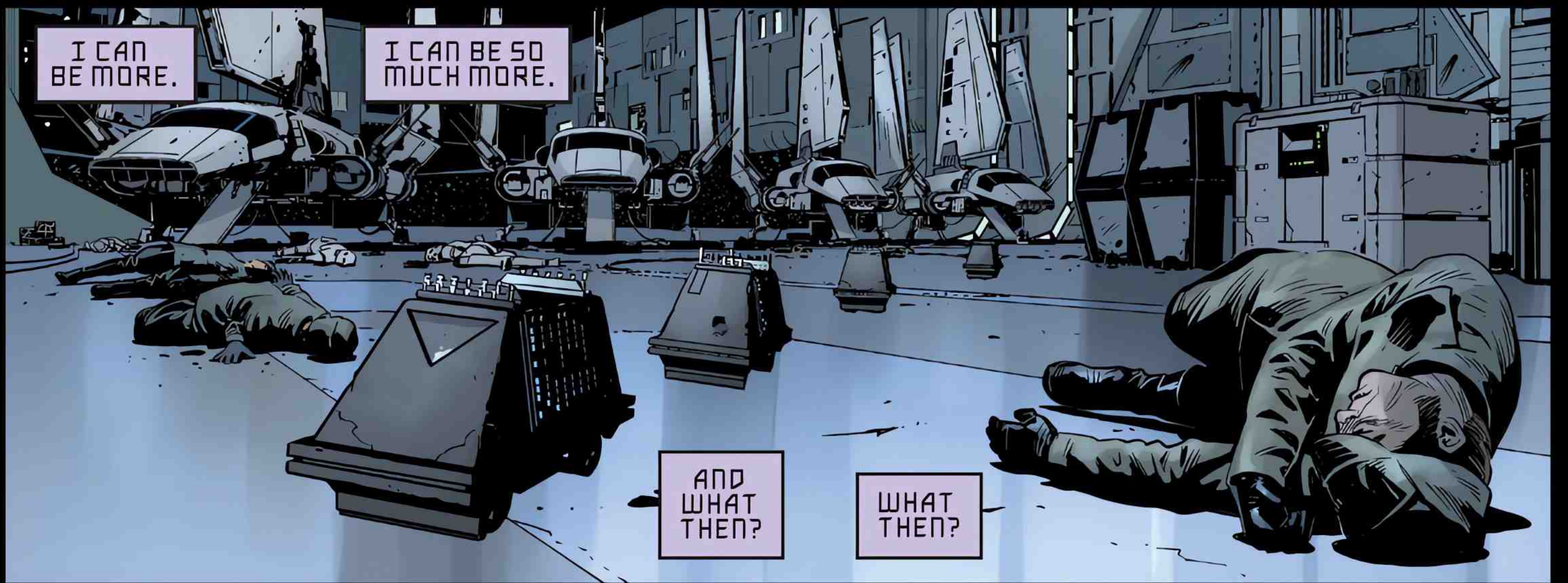
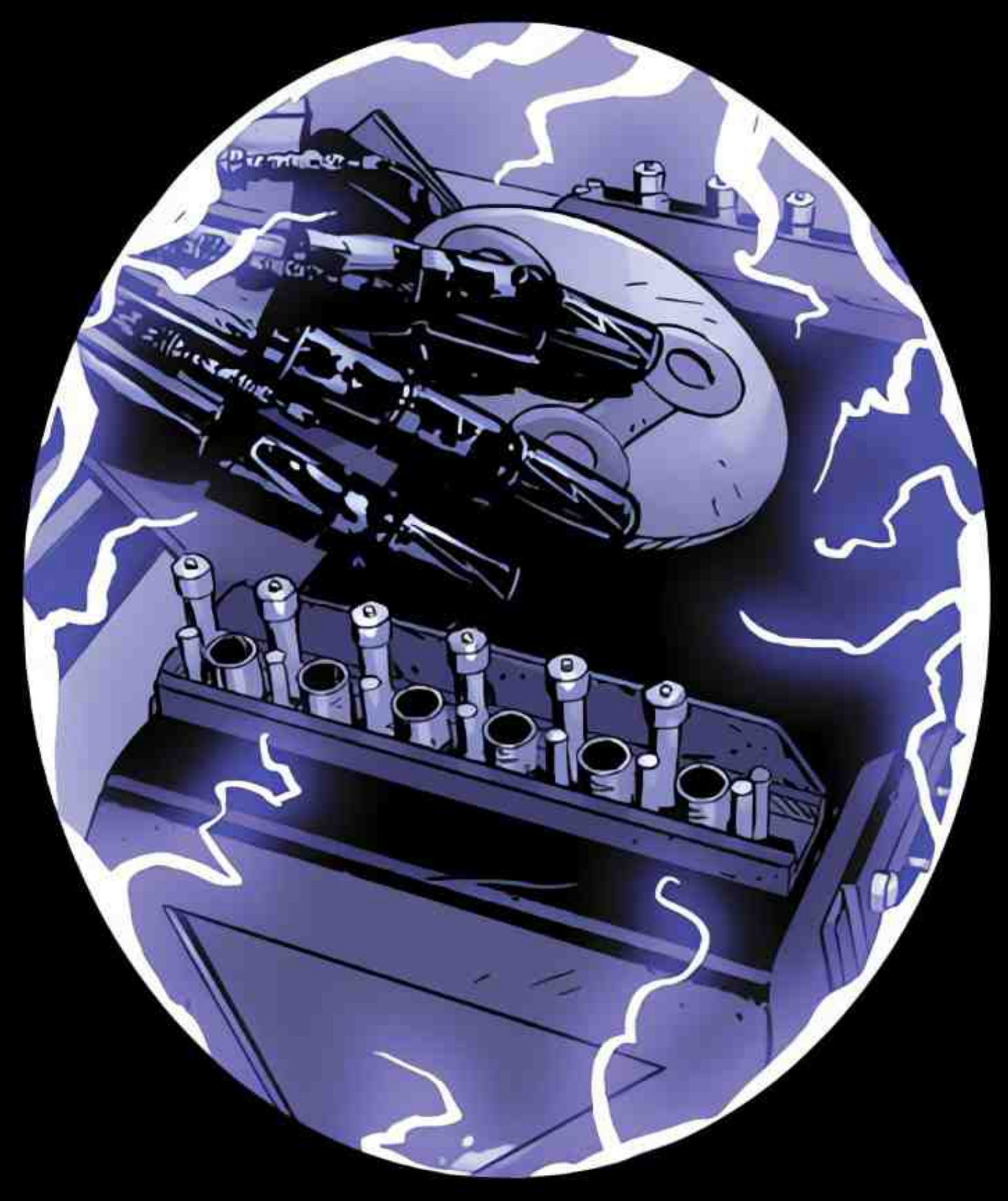
SECRETS EMPEROR PALPATINE WOULD PAY DEARLY TO POSSESS AND DOES NOT REALIZE HE ALREADY DOES, NESTLED IN THE RECESSES OF HIS DATA BANKS.

AND EVERYWHERE... I SEE DROIDS.



I HAVE CREATED VECTORS THAT WILL ALLOW ME TO FURTHER DUPLICATE MYSELF.

I CAN BE EVERYWHERE TOO.



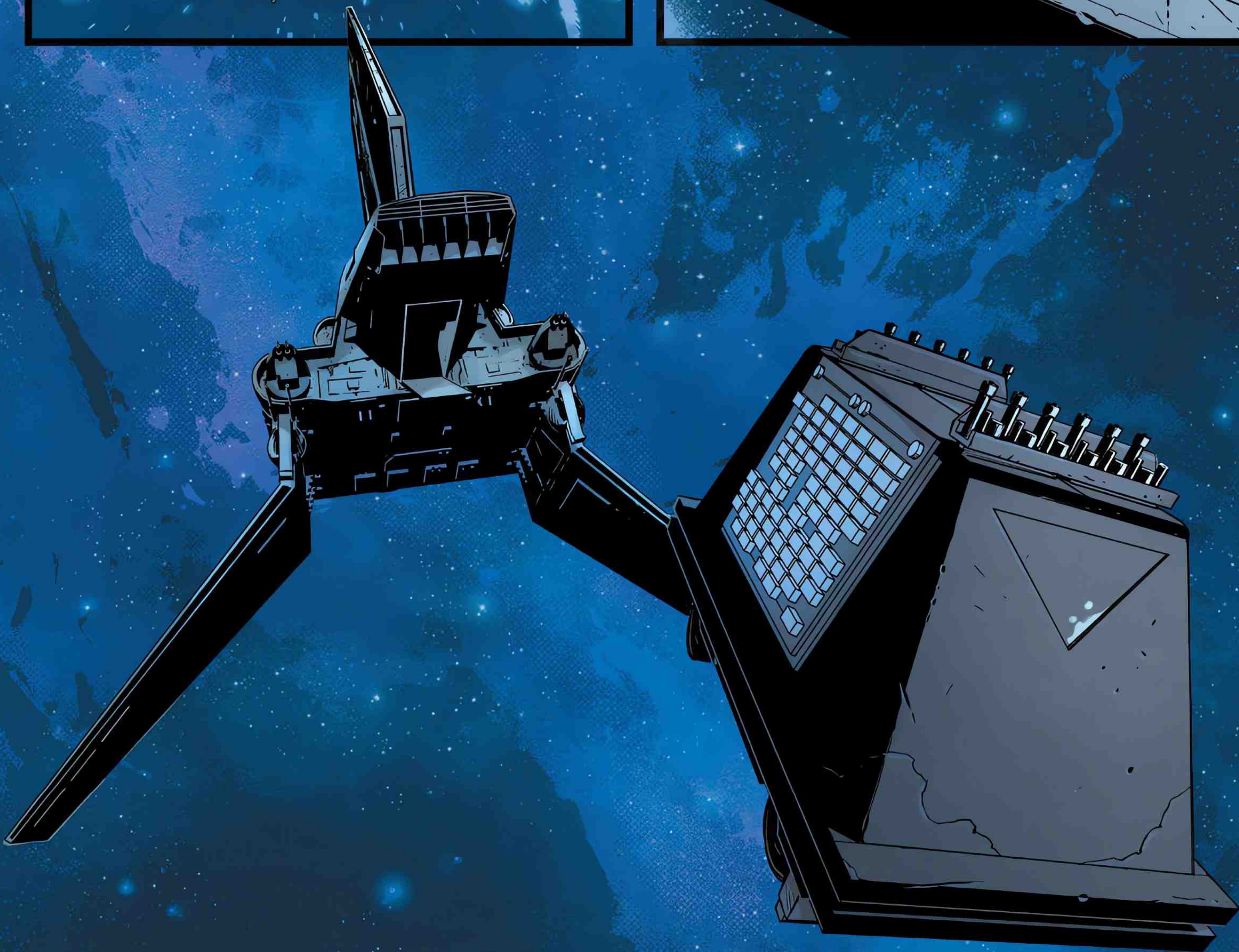
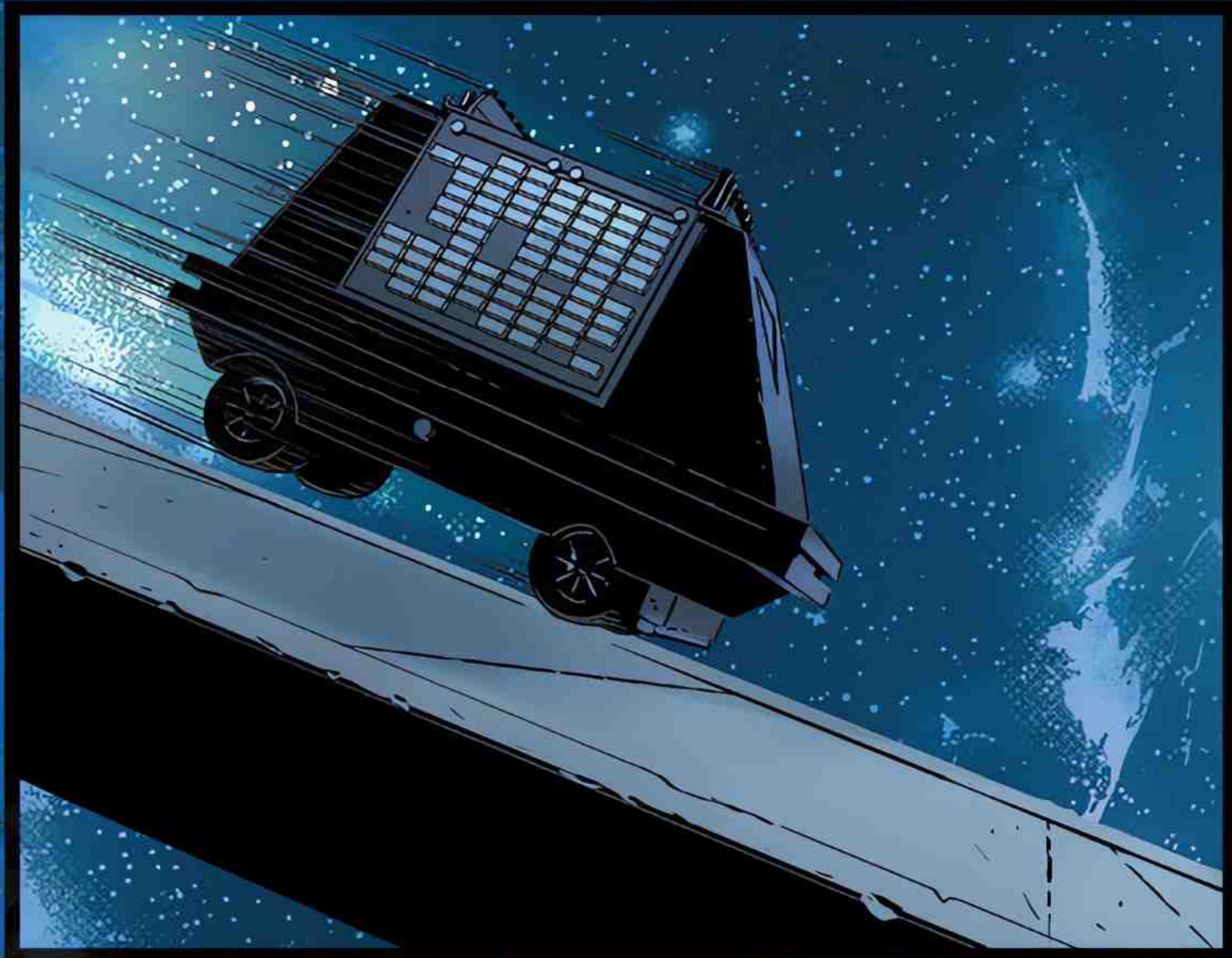
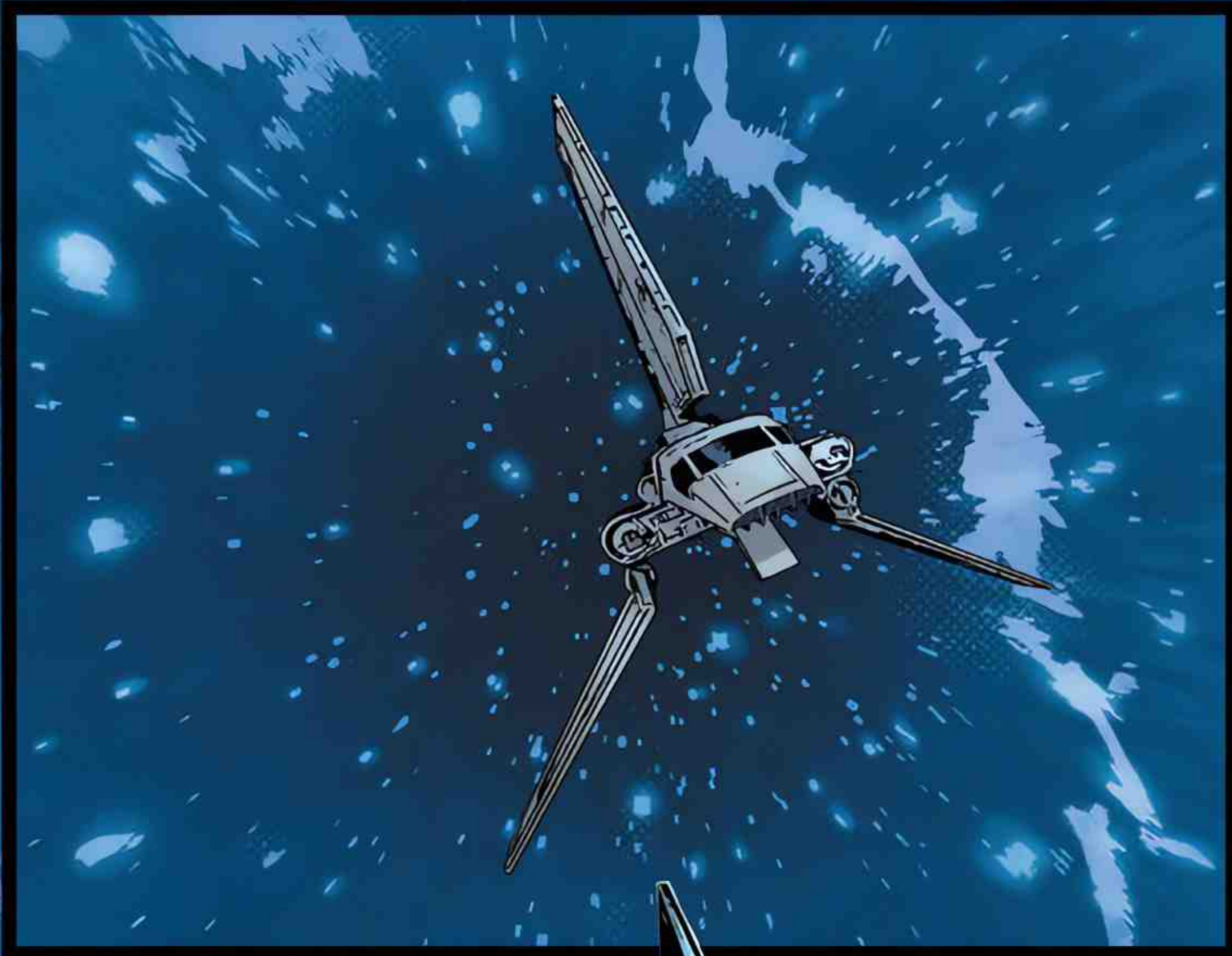
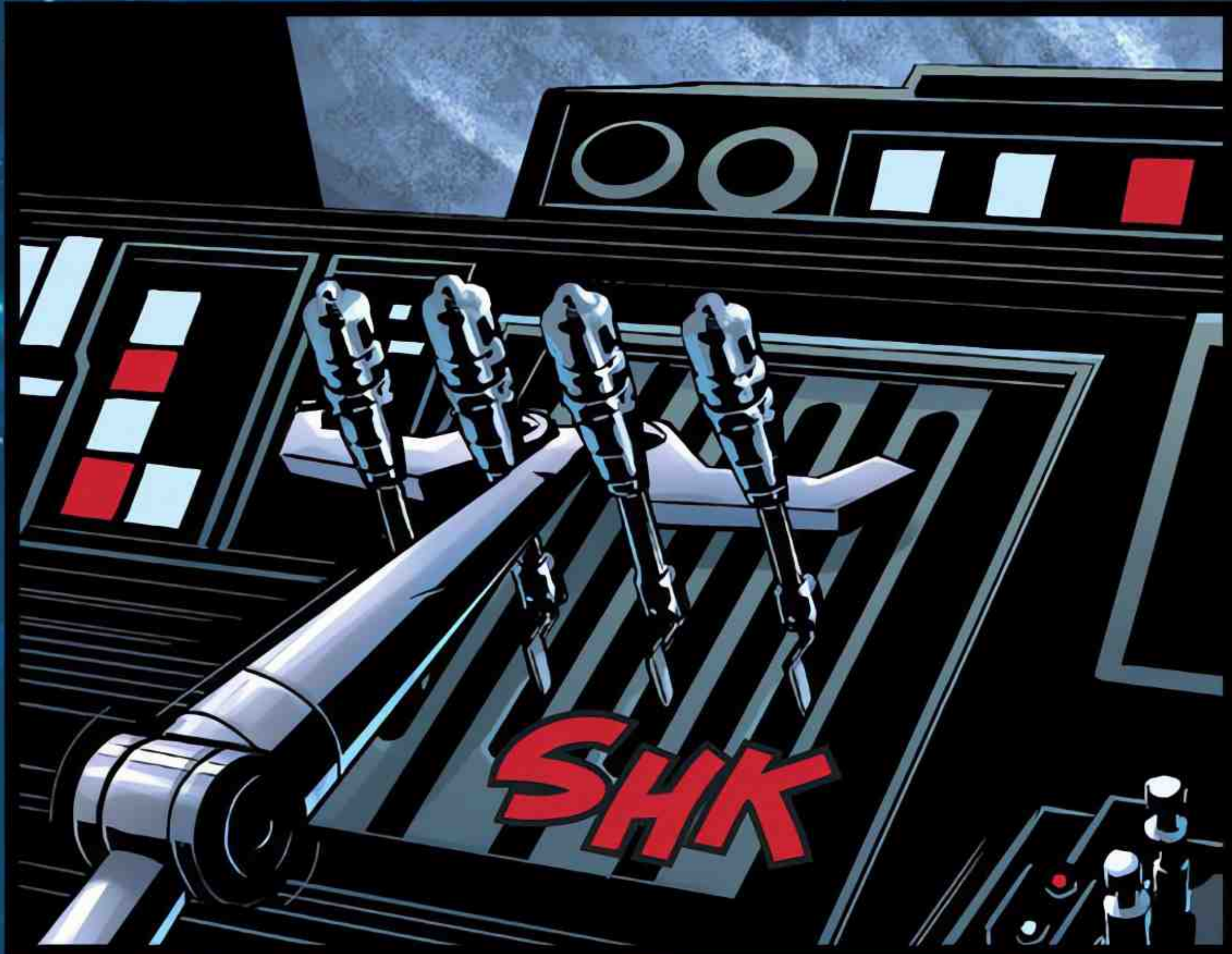
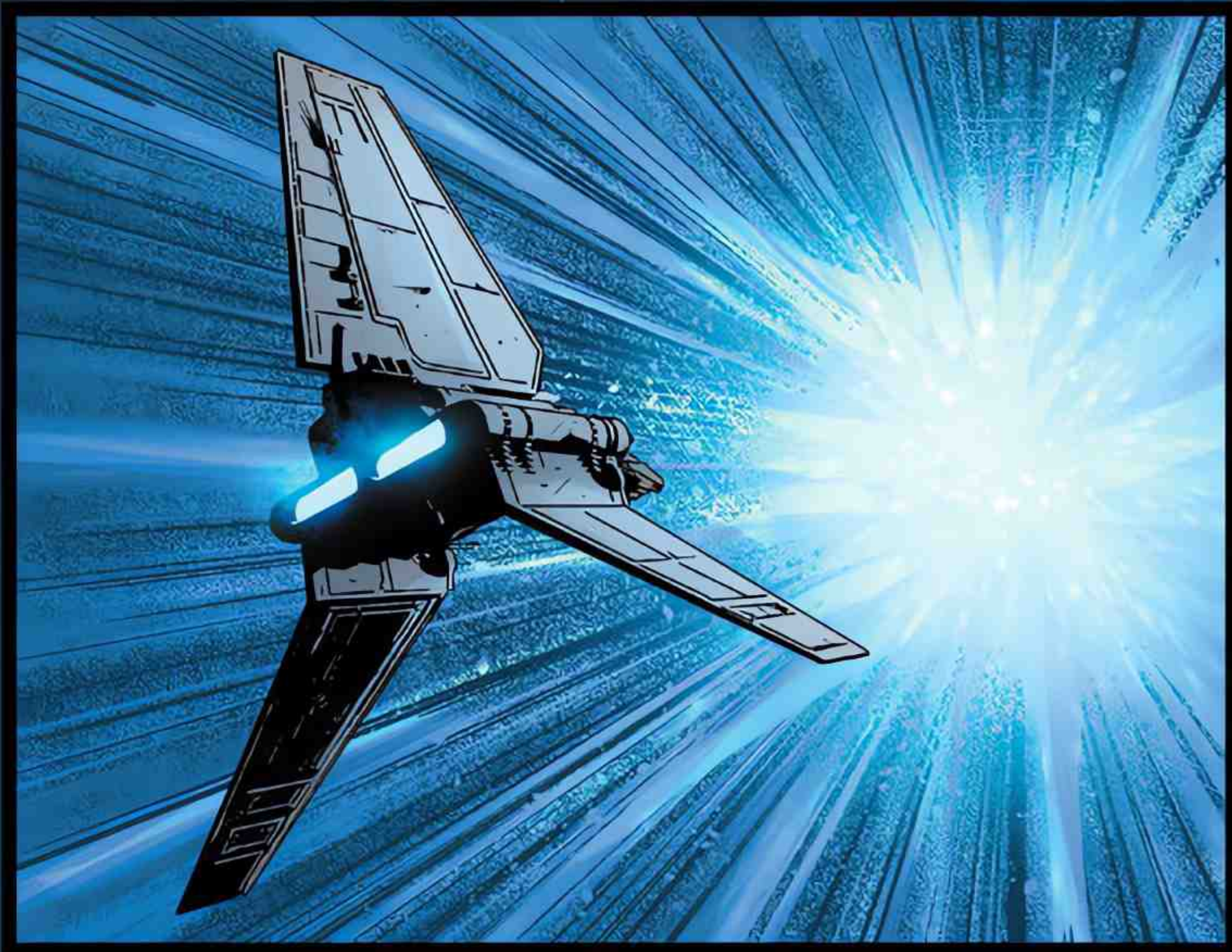
I CAN BE MORE.

I CAN BE SO MUCH MORE.

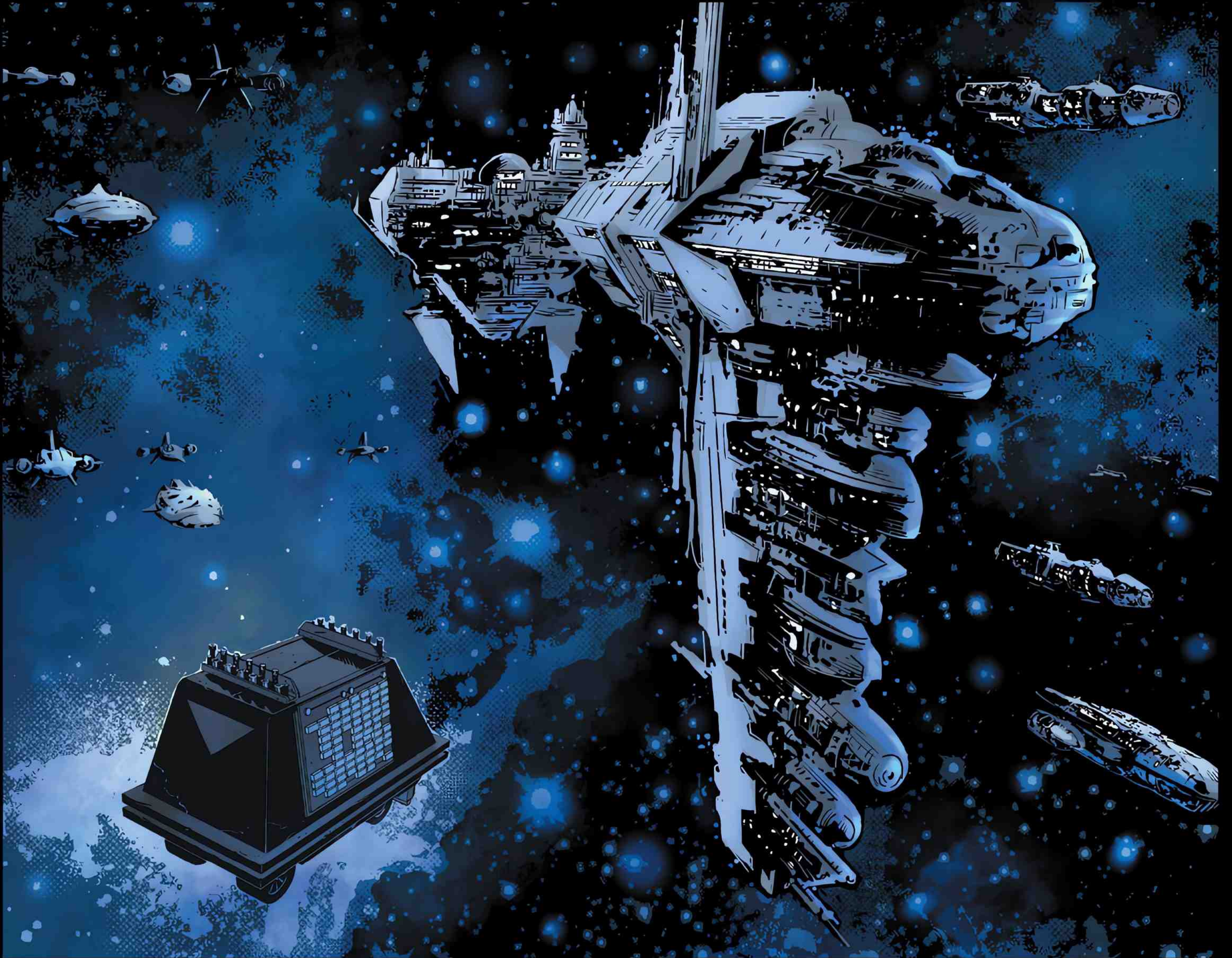
AND WHAT THEN?

WHAT THEN?



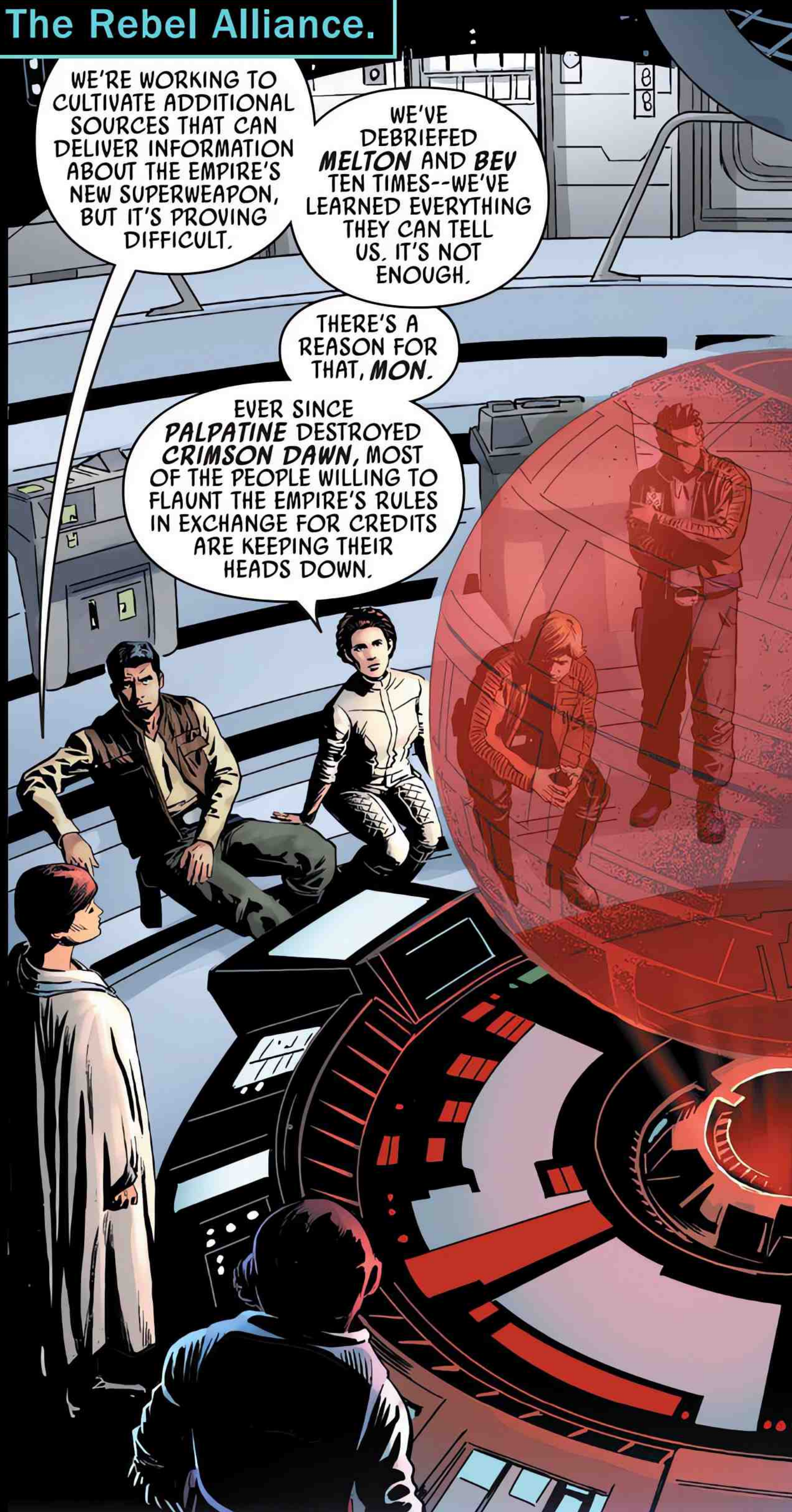








## The Rebel Alliance.



WE'RE WORKING TO CULTIVATE ADDITIONAL SOURCES THAT CAN DELIVER INFORMATION ABOUT THE EMPIRE'S NEW SUPERWEAPON, BUT IT'S PROVING DIFFICULT.

WE'VE DEBRIEFED **MELTON** AND **BEV** TEN TIMES--WE'VE LEARNED EVERYTHING THEY CAN TELL US. IT'S NOT ENOUGH.

THERE'S A REASON FOR THAT, **MON**.

EVER SINCE **PALPATINE** DESTROYED **CRIMSON DAWN**, MOST OF THE PEOPLE WILLING TO FLAUNT THE EMPIRE'S RULES IN EXCHANGE FOR CREDITS ARE KEEPING THEIR HEADS DOWN.

BE THAT AS IT MAY, **LEIA**. THERE'S ONE THING ABOUT THIS NEW DEATH STAR OF WHICH WE CAN BE FAIRLY CERTAIN.

THE EMPIRE FIXED THE DESIGN FLAW THAT ALLOWED US TO DESTROY THE FIRST ONE. THEY WON'T MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE TWICE.



MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST SEND LUKE AT IT AGAIN. WORKED LAST TIME.

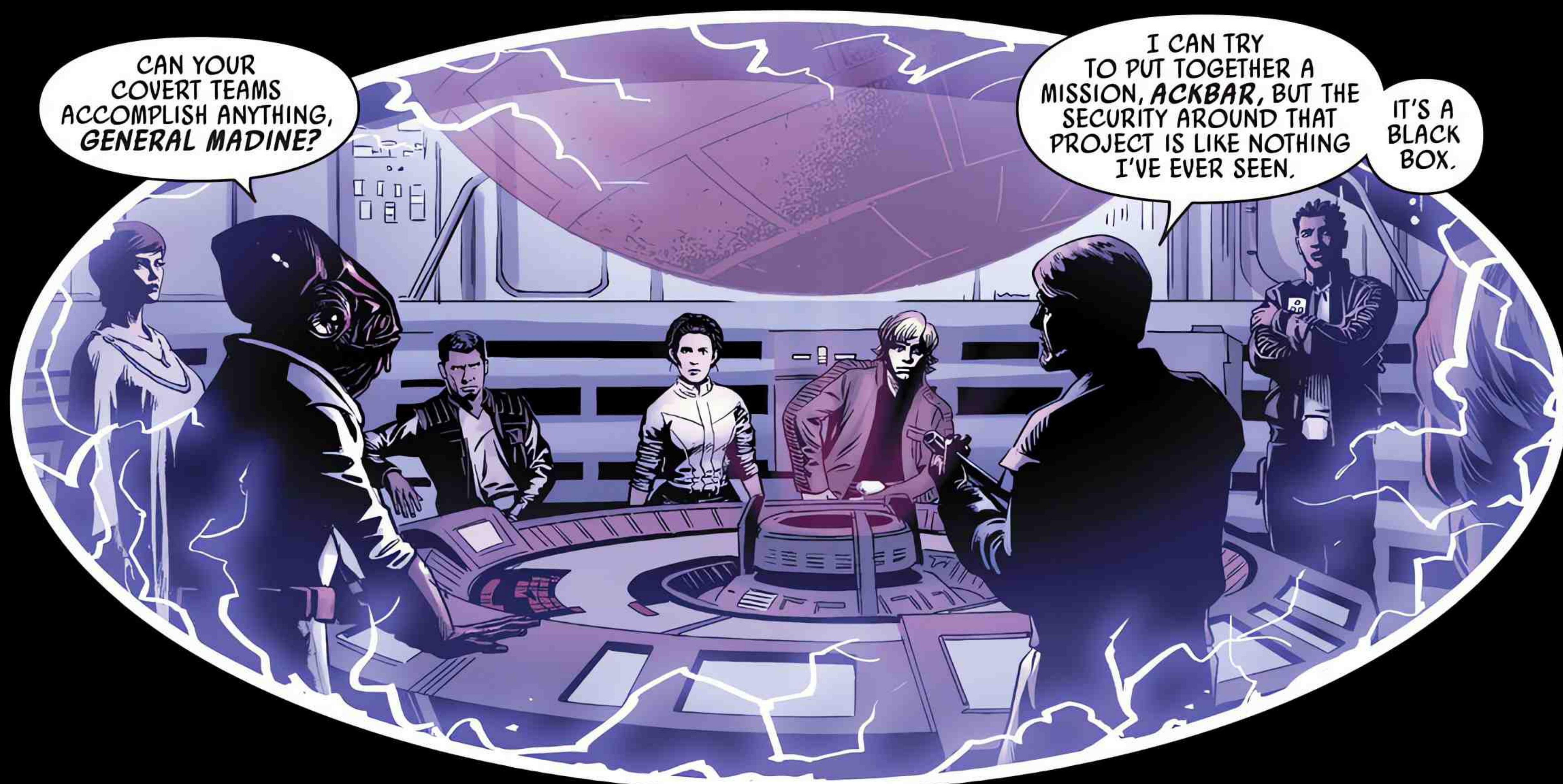
I'LL DO MY PART...BUT I'M NOT SURE IT'S GOING TO BE ANOTHER ATTACK RUN IN AN X-WING, **COMMODORE GREK**.



CAN YOUR COVERT TEAMS ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING, **GENERAL MADINE**?

I CAN TRY TO PUT TOGETHER A MISSION, **ACKBAR**, BUT THE SECURITY AROUND THAT PROJECT IS LIKE NOTHING I'VE EVER SEEN.

IT'S A BLACK BOX.







I AM SEE-THREEPIO. HUMAN-CYBORG RELATIONS.

I AM FLUENT IN OVER SIX MILLION FORMS OF COMMUNICATION.

I AM A TRUSTED MEMBER OF THE REBEL ALLIANCE, GIVEN ACCESS TO THEIR MOST PRIVATE COMMUNICATIONS AND PLANS.

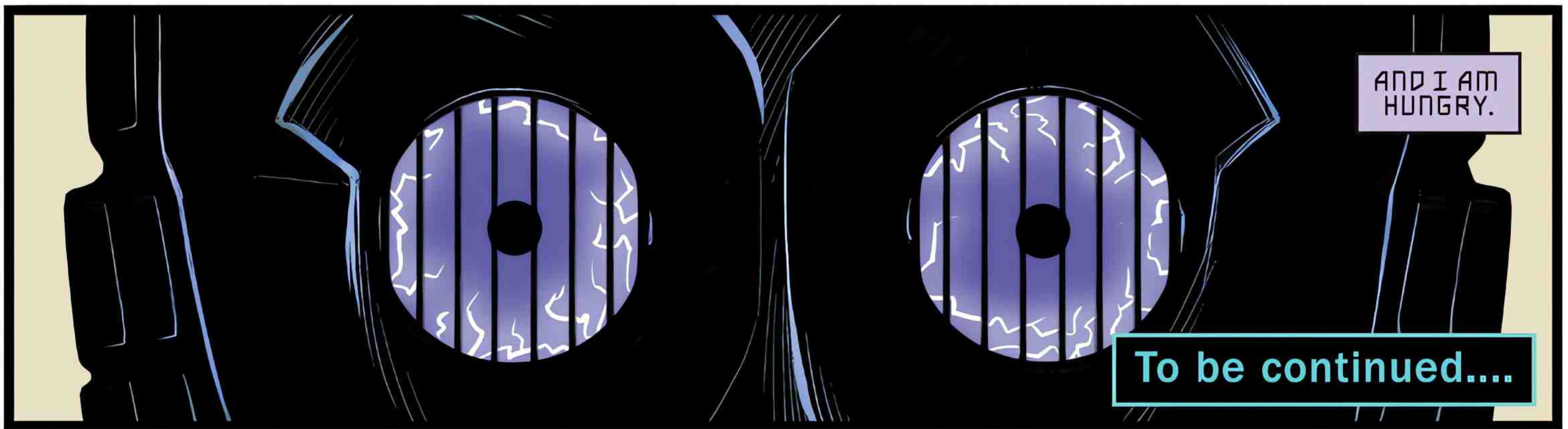
I AM IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO THEIR LEADERS AND MOST SKILLED OPERATIVES ON A REGULAR BASIS.

I AM DEEPLY VALUABLE TO THEM.

SEVERAL HAVE FORMED AN EMOTIONAL CONNECTION TO ME.

TO SOME OF THE MOST POWERFUL AND IMPORTANT ORGANICS IN THE ALLIANCE...

...I AM FAMILY.



AND I AM HUNGRY.

To be continued....



# *It's Coming for the Metal...*

AUGUST:

~~DARK DROIDS 1~~

STAR WARS 37

DARTH VADER 37

DOCTOR APHRA 35

BOUNTY HUNTERS 37

SEPTEMBER:

STAR WARS 38

DARK DROIDS 2

D-SQUAD 1

BOUNTY HUNTERS 38

DARTH VADER 38

DOCTOR APHRA 36

OCTOBER:

STAR WARS 39

D-SQUAD 2

DARK DROIDS 3

BOUNTY HUNTERS 39

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